

WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 3

THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

JULY 2004

The Governors are coming!

Labor and Civil Society mobilize for Seattle meeting of the National Governor's Association

By Steve Hughes

On July 17, the National Governor's Association (NGA) will hold its annual business meeting at the Westin Hotel in Seattle. The weekend event will draw most of the nation's governors along with local and national media, and federal officials of various stripes (in fact, the President himself is an invited guest.)

Joining the mix of policy makers and media will be a cadre of representatives from major corporations. Paying annual entrance dues of \$15,000, a group of so-called "Corporate Fellows," have gained a high degree of access to the governors through an internal think tank within the NGA called the Center for Best Practices.

As the forum in which governors set their national agenda, this meeting of the NGA will also be a national stage upon which many groups will bring forth their agendas in the streets. At issue will be the priorities and direction of our country.

In this election year, in this year where more and more the realities of our country's national and international policies have been laid bare, many are concluding there is no better time to become engaged and speak up. On July 17, and

While welfare rolls are cynically wiped clean in the name of putting people to work in dead end jobs, corporate welfare seems to be alive and well in Washington State.

A Community Perspective

According to a recent report from The Center for Applied Ecological Economics, Washington grants over \$45 billion worth of tax exemptions to companies every two years. Analyzing Department of Revenue reports, The Center concluded that these tax loopholes were "...unsustainable, unjust, undemocratic, illegal, and economically unsound."

While some 30,000 people were recently thrown off of Washington's Basic Health program for low-income people, billions of tax dollars are never collected from corporations doing business in Washing-

ton. While welfare rolls are cynically wiped clean in the name of putting people to work in dead end jobs, corporate welfare seems to be alive and well in Washington state.

States across the country are right now facing budget deficits at, or reaching, crisis levels. This has meant deep service cuts in programs aimed at the most vulnerable. Recently a number of governors within the NGA came out in favor of directing greater amounts of federal assistance to states trying to dig their way out of debt. Though both Democratic and Republican governors supported this position, a few Republican governors—led by Florida's Jeb Bush—threatened to withdraw their states altogether from the Governor's Association if the NGA pursued this policy position. The discussion of federal relief died.

A Union Perspective

Workers, like everyone, have felt the tightening of the economic belt. For state employees in Washington, spiraling health care costs have been coupled with the longest period in the last 40 years without a pay raise. In addition, state employees are under increasing political pressure from the corporate sector that wants to privatize state services.

Members of the Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE) talk about their rolling strike four years ago, not just because it was the last time they got a pay increase, but also because the concerted action in which they engaged to get that raise awakened in the union a sense of power in what is possible. New energy and activism were born.

Not long after that, after a years-long struggle with the legislature, state employees finally won the right to bargain with the governor over wages, health care, and working conditions. In the two years since collective bargaining rights were secured, over 7000 new Washington state employees have orga-

(continues on page 4)

A Duty to Disobey all Unlawful Orders

By Lawrence Mosqueda



This is a summary of an article written on the illegality and the immorality of Bush's war against Iraq and is for the use of all US residents, especially the members of the armed forces of the United States. It was written before the war started. The subsequent events of no WMD, no evidence of a link between Iraq and Al-Qaeda, no connection between Iraq and 9/11, and the recent prison tortures, have made this even more relevant. There are sources and documentation in the full article which was published 2/27/03 on Couterpunch at <http://www.couterpunch.org/mosqueda02272003.html>. It is also at <http://www.omjp.org/ArtLarryDisobey.html> and elsewhere.

Domestic and international law

The military oath taken at the time of induction reads:

"I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God"

The Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) 890.ART.90 (20), makes it clear that military personnel need to obey the "lawful command of his superior officer," 891.ART.91 (2), the "lawful order of a warrant officer", 892.ART.92 (1) the "lawful general order", 892.ART.92 (2) "lawful order". In each case, military personnel have an obligation and a duty to only obey Lawful orders and indeed have an obligation to disobey Unlawful orders, including orders by the president that do not comply with the UCMJ. The moral and legal obligation is to the U.S. Constitution and not to those who would issue unlawful orders, especially if those orders are in direct violation of the Constitution and the UCMJ...

When the U.S. tried Nazi war criminals they did not allow them to use the reason or excuse that they were only "following

orders" as a defense for their war crimes which resulted in the deaths of millions of innocent men, women, and children. "In 1953, the Department of Defense adopted the principles of the Nuremberg Code as official policy" of the United States. (Hasting Center Report, March-April 1991)...

There is considerable evidence that Bush's plans are fundamentally illegal, from both an international and domestic perspective. If the war is indeed illegal, members of the armed forces have a legal and moral obligation to resist illegal orders, according to their oath of induction.

The United States Constitution makes treaties that are signed by the government equivalent to the "law of the land" itself, Article VI, para. 2. Among the international laws and treaties that a U.S. pre-emptive attack on Iraq may violate are: The Hague Convention on Land Warfare of 1899;... Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War;... The Charter of the United Nations;... The Nuremberg Principles, which define as a crime against peace, "planning, preparation, initiation or waging of a war of aggression, or a war in violation of international treaties, agreements, or assurances, or participation in a common plan or conspiracy for accomplishment of any of the foregoing."

As Hamilton Action for Social Change has noted "Under the Nuremberg Principles, you have an obligation NOT to follow the orders of leaders who are preparing crimes against peace and crimes against humanity. We are all bound by what U.S. Chief Prosecutor Robert K. Jackson declared in 1948: [T]he very essence of the [Nuremberg] Charter is that individuals have intentional duties which transcend the national obligations of obedience imposed by the individual state." At the Tokyo War Crimes trial, it was further declared "[A]nyone with knowledge of illegal activity and an opportunity to do something about it is a potential criminal under international law unless the person takes affirmative measures to prevent commission of the crimes."

By November of 2002, 315 law professors had signed a statement entitled "A US War Against Iraq Will Violate US and International Law and Set a Dangerous Precedent for Violence That Will Endanger the American People." (See the full statement at www.the-rule-of-law.com/IraqStatement/.)

"Aggressive war is one of the most serious transgressions of international law." In fact, at the Nuremberg trials,

(continues on page 14)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, <wip@olywa.net>

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Dave Campbell	Hali Panneton
Chelsea Chase	Jeff Sowers
Sebastian Chase	Sylvia Smith
Renee Cruickshank	Pat Tassoni
Megan Davis	Robert Ross
Teresa Jennings	Drew Hendricks
Kayden	Tom Chenhall
Margaret Love	Jenni Minner
Sandy Mayes	David Lavender
	Patricia Vázquez

Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Announcements, etc.

WHAT:

"If Corporations are 'People' and Money is 'Speech,' is Democracy a 'Myth?'"

WHO:

A public talk by Jacqui Brown-Miller, Esquire. Olympia attorney actively involved with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and ReclaimDemocracy.org. She has led a study group on "Corporate Personhood" and is now forming a local political action group working to reverse the legal doctrine that corporations are people and that money is speech.

WHEN:

July 23, 2004
7:00 - 9:00 pm

WHERE:

Olympia Community Center, Room B
222 Columbia St. N.W.
Olympia, WA 98501

WHY:

Jacqui has timed her speech with the Olympia Film Society's showing of the controversial documentary, "The Corporation" running July 17th through 22nd. See the film, attend the lecture, and join the effort to Reclaim Democracy!

COST:

Free Admission, Public Invited

CONTACTS:

Jacqui Brown-Miller 360-236-9684
www.wilpf.org

WIP Update: Long Hair David is charged

Long Hair David, the founder of EGYHOP (Emma Goldman Youth and Homeless Outreach Project), was arrested by state troopers at Sylvester Park on Monday, February 16 and held for a little more than 24 hours in Thurston County Jail.

In June, he was finally charged with assaulting an officer. His preliminary hearing is July 9th.

This charge represents a very serious watershed in David's legal status as a citizen in our community; support of every kind is needed to make sure we do not lose one of the people who make Olympia a city worth living in.

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, July 30

Proofreading Meeting:

Call 956 1168
for more info

WORKS IN PROGRESS

PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507
WIP@zhonka.net*www.olywa.net/wip

Advertising Info

W.L.P. ads
at 493-2876

Inch Rate	\$9.00
Business Card	\$35.00*
5" X 5"	\$144.00

4 Months for the price of 3
Special Non-Profit Rates

**BEFORE YOU
FORGET,
GET
INVOLVED!
(SEE BELOW)**

SOUTH SOUND GREEN PAGES

South Sound's Monthly
Environmental Newspaper

Green Pages is a forum for individuals and organizations concerned about the integrity of our environment and the quality of life in our community.

209 East 4th Ave., Suite 206
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 786-6349

speech@olywa.net www.olywa.net/speech

Support Free Press

Get our special Edition
Scrapbook

See this page

Got WIP?



Only You Can Keep WIP Going for Another 10 Year

Subscriptions: ☐ Individual ... \$35 ☐ Low-Income ... \$15

Merchandise: ☐ WIP Flame Logo T-Shirt ... \$15 each; # _____ size(s) _____
☐ WIP 10-year Retrospective Scrapbook ... \$15 each
☐ Catalog/Index Listing ... \$1; back issues ... \$1/each

Support Progressive Journalism

If the corporations aren't paying for it, then you have to!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Send to:
WORKS IN PROGRESS
PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507

The execution of Martin Luther King



MLK had planned to be a presidential candidate.

King's execution was arranged by organized crime. The assassin was claimed by Mob member Loyd Jowers to be Memphis Police Department lieutenant Earl Clark, a sharpshooter and hunting companion.

The Clark shot from the overgrown brush in the back of the rooming house, not the bathroom window. At 7:00 am the next morning, Inspector Sam Evens had a public works crew cut down the brush. "The image of a flat barren area" was used to reinforce the story of a shooting from the bathroom window.

A taxicab driver witnessed the assassin "come down out of the bushes and run up the street and get into a waiting Memphis Police Department traffic car which sped away." The taxicab driver was found floating found off the Memphis-Arkansas Bridge. The state has no record of his death.

The murder weapon in evidence was in a bundle found in front of Guy Canipe's store. He claims the bundle was dropped off minutes before the shooting. The bullets from the bundle do not have the same metallurgical composition as the death slug nor has the death slug been proven to have come this weapon. The real murder weapon was dropped off the Memphis-Arkansas Bridge.

The 111th Military Intelligence Group based at Fort McPherson in Atlanta, Georgia, were there. King's rooms and balcony were bugged. 20th Special Forces Group a special eight-man sniper unit was also there. They were trained for a mission, in Memphis. It was aborted because the Mob contract was successful.

Charles Stephens, the state's main witness to it's claim that Ray shot King, "was drunk at the time" of the shooting. According to Capt. Tommy Stephens, he "couldn't identify anyone, much less stand up." Other witnesses prove James Earl Ray was not even present at the time of the shooting.

Sources: Summary statement by William Peppers, Coretta Scott King Vs. Loyd Jowers; and William Peppers, "An Act of State"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
THE COURT: In answer to the question did Loyd Jowers participate in a conspiracy to do harm to Dr. Martin Luther King, your answer is yes. Do you also find that others, including governmental agencies, were parties to this conspiracy as alleged by the defendant? Your answer to that one is also yes. ...Is that your verdict? THE JURY: Yes (in unison).				1 2003: US suspends military aid to countries that refuses to exempt Americans from new International Criminal Court jurisdiction	2 2003: Bush tells Iraqis with "bring them on" 2003: EU softens GMO laws with labeling requirements to permit US foods in Europe	3 2003: New OK law gives man life sentence for spitting on cop 2003: US places \$25 million bounty on Saddam Hussein
4 2003: Federal Judge overturns Dept of Energy's attempt to re-classify highly radioactive waste to avoid cleaning it up	5 1999: Russia to send 3,600 peacekeeping troops to Kosovo 2001: DOE removes Hanford tanks from explosion watch list	6 2001: GW Bush wants to allow states to classify a fetus as a person 2002: Afghanistan's vice president is gunned down	7 2003: White House admits Bush's State of the Union statement regarding Iraq's attempt to acquire uranium in Nigeria is false	8 2002: Study reports US citizens pay highest health care taxes 2003: Olympia Council bans release of non-biodegradable balloons	9 2003: DOE cancels shipment of nuclear waste thru S California due to opposition 2003: Canadian gov. to sell med. marijuana	10 2003: Federal study shows babies born in major wheat-producing counties are twice as likely to have birth defects
11 2003: Tenet takes blame of false Iraq uranium/Africa info 2003: Unemployment rate for OR in June was 8.5%; WA 7.1%	12 2002: Bush administration moves back projection for budget surplus from 2004 to 2005; fed. deficit has climbed to \$165 billion	13 2003: Condoleezza Rice and Rumsfeld insist Bush's statement regarding Saddam seeking uranium in Africa was accurate	14 2003: Bush says claim that Iraq sought uranium in Africa is obscuring "larger point"-Saddam "absolutely" had WMD program	15 1913: CO: Japanese RR workers attacked 2001: Justice Dept reports that 20% of mentally ill state prisoners don't receive treatment	16 2003: Gen. in Iraq says US in "classical guerilla-type situation" 2003: Tenet says he didn't see sentence in Bush's address	17 2003: US State Dept claims forged document on African uranium not examined by CIA until after state of the union speech
18 2003: Documents excerpts released to defend Iraqi intelligence 2003: British expert David Kelly's body is found in Oxfordshire	19 2003: Farewell Creek blaze in N Cascades at 35,956 acres 2003: British military expert David Kelly's death ruled a suicide	20 2003: BBC admits D. Kelly was its source that Blair exaggerated Iraq's access to WMDs 2003: Palestine outlaws militant groups	21 2003: Gov Locke says he won't seek 3rd term 2003: Bush accuses Iran, Syria of harboring terrorist, says his patience is running out	22 2003: US scientists begin 3 days of autopsies to determine cause of death of 11 harbor porpoises found dead after Navy sonar tests	23 1998: West side Perry Street water tower is knocked down 2002: US House votes to lift travel restrictions to Cuba	24 2003: Japan's Parliament votes to send troops to Iraq; outraged lawmakers shoved, shouted and jumped on desks
25 2003: 3 nuns are convicted for vandalizing a nuclear missile silo 2003: Venezuela won't recognize Iraq's delegation to OPEC	26 2003: Jeb Magruder says Nixon ordered Watergate break-in 2003: 100s demonstrate across CO/NE to honor nuns' protest	27 1914: British troops invade streets of Dublin to disarm Irish rebels 2001: ELF claims it spiked trees in Gifford Pinchot Nat'l Forest	28 2003: Two Democratic Senators demand a halt to the Pentagon plan to set up Web site for gambling on world events	29 2003: Sam Tsohonis of Olympia wounded in West Bank protest of Israel's security fence 2003: Nigerian women take over Shell station	30 2003: Bush takes responsibility for Iraq uranium remarks 2003: Glenn Quantz files claim of hostile work environment	31 2003: Israel bans Palestinians who marry Israeli citizens from living inside Israel w/ spouses, and attaining Israeli citizenship

Attacking Native Sovereignty: Michael David Crise arrested for harvesting Geoducks

By David Lavender

On Monday June 21, 2004, Michael David Crise was hunting for geoducks in Tacoma; he is a commercial diver. He did not come home from work that night as his family expected. When Tuesday came and Michael had still not been heard from, Laura, his significant other, and Two Hawks, his son, began making calls to locate the whereabouts of their loved one.

They could not find him, but later received a call from somebody in Pierce County letting Laura and family know where Michael was: the county jail. Michael was arrested and charged with theft in the first degree, violation of state fishing area and time, and conspiracy to commit theft. This is based on accusations of illegal geoduck hunting that happened three years ago: a day on which Michael has multiple people who would testify that he wasn't even diving. It is not sure how long a sentence he could be facing; the charges have precedents of everything from fines to fifteen years in prison.

Michael is a Native of the Medicine of the Medicine Creek Treaty and a Squaxin Island tribal member; his right to dive is a cultural right passed on from many generations and is currently protected by law. He is very knowledgeable about geoducks, only harvesting ones between the ages of three and eight and paying part of the money he earns to help protect and replenish geoducks habitats and populations. Michael feels a deep connection with the geoducks and is committed (unlike the state) to the continuation of a healthy geoduck population. His son Two Hawks was on 91.3 FM, Free Radio Olympia, on Saturday, June 26 during the 6-8 local news hour, and had this to say: "My father was a radical in his younger days. Him and my mom would go out and fish when it wasn't permitted, before fishing rights were legally allowed. People would shoot at him, people would yell at him all kinds of obscene things just for him going out in the bay and fishing; which is a culture, it seems today, people don't want to let be passed down. It is

just this whole American ideal, Americanizing everything and any other culture is completely wrong." Indeed, at the core of the issue is the state, other municipalities, and individuals here not respecting the sovereignty of Natives.

According to Laura and Two Hawks this is all part of a sting operation: a set up by state fisheries and wildlife targeting Natives. Again Two Hawks: "It is a crooked issue with the city of Tacoma and State Fish and Wildlife not respecting the rights of Native Americans. It is pretty bad; the Medicine Creek Treaty is something a lot of people do not acknowledge but gives Native Americans rights to do - things like go fish or dive for geoducks". "We found out the day after Father's Day ... his court appointed attorney didn't even call us until after the hearing." Michael never was allowed to make a phone call, a right to everyone who is taken into custody. His family members fear for his safety because of the nature and sensitive information he has.

Bail for the release of Michael David Crise is set for \$50,000; the family would appreciate help financially and/or legally. To help, call me David at 705 1971 and I will help you plug in.

[I.E. I became aware of all of this because Laura contacted me with concerns about the state using the pesticide Triclopyr to kill Eurasian Milfoil (see May issue of WIP). One issue she had was that the group CLAMP (Capitol Lake Adaptive Management Plan) had a "representative", Jeff Dickinson, from the Squaxin Island Tribe who voted for the use of the deadly chemical. Two Hawks on the issue: "He (Jeff Dickinson) is not Native American. I don't think he represents my tribe and my people from the elders down to the young kids ... It seems pretty idiotic to put a chemical that's harmful to the wildlife there, the salmon go to spawn up the Deschutes River. They have to go through Capitol Lake, then they have deal with this deadly chemical, and any animals living near there and using the lake like eagles."]

For WFSE, rallying at the NGA meeting will be an opportunity to communicate to the broader community an alternative agenda. ... Choosing to speak out at a venue in which Governor Locke is trying to look his very best is the leverage point that equalizes the unequal playing field between management and labor.

(from page 1: The Governors are...) nized themselves into a union. This flurry of organizing has contributed to a sense of momentum within the union as contract talks with the governor began this past winter.

Negotiations for the first-ever, statewide master contract are now under way. For WFSE, the final agreement will set the wage rates, health care packages, and all the other rules for some 40,000 represented state employees.

By mid-Summer the most difficult issues will be on the table between the governor's office and the union. Discussions of pay, health care, and out-sourcing (privatization) will take center stage. Coincidentally around that same time Governor Locke will also be trying to take center stage as the host of the Seattle meeting of the NGA.

Marching on the Boss

For WFSE, rallying at the NGA meeting will be an opportunity to communicate to the broader community an alternative agenda. As state employees march to the Westin hotel where the governors will be, the members of the union will have an opportunity to taste the power of collective action. Choosing to speak out at a venue in which Governor Locke is trying to look his very best is the leverage point that equalizes the unequal playing field between management and labor.

In a broader view, these governors and their corporate lobbyists are all of our bosses. The effects of the neo-liberal economic agenda are to be felt everywhere in the form of rising tuition rates, increasing poverty, the forward lurch of the United States war machine, and the hollowing out of our economy and jobs.

On July 17th the stage is set for union members and community members to speak out together. By mobilizing together labor and civil society will learn—through trial and error—that they must work together in the future if success is to be possible. By being in the streets together, labor and civil society will see at the grassroots—rank-in-file to rank-in-file—that they in fact share many interests in common.

Student March and Parade

Saturday, July 17- Noon

Beginning at the corner of Roy and Broadway on Capitol Hill, and marching to join the labor festival and march at Westlake Center
www.NGAaction.org

"Put People First" Festival and March

Saturday, July 17

1:30 PM Gather at Westlake Park
2:00 PM March to the Westin Hotel, speakers and festivities to follow
www.putpeoplefirst.org

Opinion: Missed Opportunities

By Drew Hendricks

Twice now, the Empire of the United States has used our public property as a staging ground for their wars. Twice now, our response to this provocation has been muted and ineffective.

Actually, they have used our community more than just the two times they recently used our port. Too many of us work in nice jobs and fill out IRS forms, which withhold our earnings for the war machine. But that's a topic for a future essay.

Now that we have seen what the Port Commissioners and the Military are willing to do with our public property, some of us have had a chance to discuss our response and make plans. These plans are the topic of this essay.

So far, the plan is to set up a tent. Not just any tent, but the Peace Camp tent. There is a plan afoot to set it up for maintenance and waterproofing, and then organize a team of folks to set it up in a more permanent location for the summer. We need a place to put it up; your input is needed in this decision.

We need a community space that is in eyeshot of the Port, which is in the traffic pattern of the Farmers Market, and which lets us stay with minimal chance of interference from the police over a period of some weeks, if not months.

We need your ideas, your energy, and your commitment to make this happen.

Some of you will be campers, and stay at the tent to have conversations and make our stay there meaningful. Some of you will be supporters, donating the money and resources that will keep us going. Some of you will linger at the edges of your comfort zone wondering whether we can (or should) challenge the authority of the Homeland Security State.

What will the tent accomplish? Will it end the war?

Well, yes – and no.

The tent is a place, nothing more. It is a place to have discussions that cannot happen anywhere else with any regularity. It is a shelter, a place where we can gather to decide what to do to stop the wars. It is a place from which we can see what the Port is doing with our property, so that information can be shared via radio, television, word of mouth, cell phone, smoke signal, and newsprint.

If the last time was any example, it will be a heck of a lot of fun for those lucky enough to stay there. This time, we hope that we will not need to lose anyone in order to come together.

Where will you be this summer? Will you be too busy for peace?

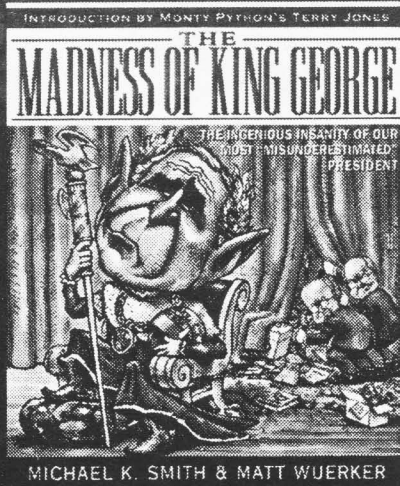
"THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE"
THE INGENIOUS INSANITY OF OUR MOST
"MISUNDERESTIMATED" PRESIDENT

FEATURING CARTOONS
BY
MATT WUERKER
WITH ESSAYS
BY MICHAEL K SMITH

"...Lacks subtlety!"
-Publisher's Weekly

get your copy today
only \$9.72!

www.commoncouragepress.com 800-497-3207



They Ain't Goin' Nowhere (Unless We Make It So)

By Ron Jacobs

Let's get this clear. The United States will be in Iraq as long as it wants to be unless the American people make it politically untenable for it to be there. Despite the media reports suggesting that US forces will remain only at the request of the new Iraqi "government," the fact of the matter is that it is Washington telling its minions in Baghdad when and where US forces will be deployed, not the other way around. Sure Americans are told that the Iraqi government has asked for a continued US military presence, but wouldn't you want some protection if you were a regime trying to impose yourself on a country at war where less than half the population wanted you? Furthermore, if you were a regime that depended on another country's military for your existence, wouldn't you want them to remain until all your enemies were either eradicated, bought off, or otherwise neutralized?

I don't know if the analogy I'm looking for is that of the Iraqi government as a child who depends on her abusive parents for protection because she has no one else to turn to or if a more appropriate analogy would be that of the prisoner who depends on the prison administration to protect him from his enemies among his fellow prisoners. Either analogy, while not entirely accurate, seems to work. Furthermore, either analogy spells further death and dislocation for most of the Iraqi people while their US-picked regime gets fat.

If one recalls a couple examples from recent history, it's easy to find other instance where the US graciously agreed to let its soldiers kill and die in a foreign country at the request of that country's "government." Let's see, in the 1950s, Washington set up a government in what was then Saigon and then offered its services to that government. This led to a twenty year war against that country's people that resulted in over 50,000 US deaths and more than 2,000,000 Vietnamese deaths. This was after the US refused to allow elections in Vietnam because it knew that the victor would be Ho Chi Minh and his party. Washington did not want Ho Chi Minh to win. It did not want democracy. It wanted control. So it set up a puppet government and then told that government to ask for US troops to protect it. Eventually 500,000 US troops were in the country wreaking their havoc. In this instance, the US was defeated and left the country in tatters. However, they did leave and the country continues to rebuild.

In the 1980s, after the defeat of the US-maintained Somoza regime in Nicaragua by the Sandinistas, and the eruption of a popular armed insurgency against the US-supported government in neighboring El Salvador, the US military and its spy agencies entered both countries, albeit in very small numbers. In El Salvador, it was at the so-called request of Washington's client regime. In Nicaragua, it was at the "request" of Nicaragua's neighbors. The latter request was followed by an increase to the "requesting" government, much of that aid military in nature. Today, the populations of both countries suffer from high unemploy-

ment and homelessness. Meanwhile the US client regimes depend heavily on their US-trained police and military forces to stay in power.

Another over-debated non-issue in the mainstream media concerns the question of whether or not the Iraqi government will have any say over US military operations in Iraq. This question is a perfect example of how the media and government conspire (wittingly or unwittingly) to create a controversy where there is none. There is no way that the Pentagon would ever allow any other government to tell US troops when and where they can go. Hell, not even the United Nations is allowed to do that, so why would any Iraqi government, even one created and paid for in Washington, DC? If one returns to the history books and looks up Vietnam War, they will find that there was never any moment during that war that US troops were under any command besides their own. In fact, it was usually the case that all the troops fighting the US's battle looked to US commanders for instructions. It didn't matter if those troops were southern Vietnamese, Australian, or American, they took their orders from the Pentagon. The scenario in Iraq is the same. There is no Iraqi security force. There is no multinational army under UN control. There is only an imperial military that takes all of its orders from the Pentagon. A Pentagon that has never been anything other than a contract killing force for corporate America.

So, forget the nonsense about a new government. Forget the nonsense about sovereignty. And, most of all, forget the notion that the folks in Washington, the United Nations, and Baghdad have got it under control and the American GIs will be home for the winter holidays. I just don't think it's gonna' happen. There's a reason why the Pentagon just extended the tours of duty for thousands of soldiers and it's not because Rumsfeld wants them to get their full retirement benefits. It's because, as far as the Pentagon is concerned, this war is far from over. Indeed, the only way those men and women in uniform are going to get back to the States before Washington gets exactly what it wants in Iraq and Afghanistan is if the American people get off their butts and make it clear that we want them back here now.

Ron Jacobs is author of **The Way the Wind Blew: a history of the Weather Underground**, which is being republished by Verso. A former Olympia resident, he is a longtime writer for Works In Progress and is frequently featured at www.counterpunch.org

Preserving Freedom and Democracy?

A speech delivered by Phan Nguyen at the
Sylvester Park Peace Rally on May 30th

**Don't take our rights
for granted. The laws
of this country will only
protect us when we
raise a fuss.**

A few days ago the Olympian had an editorial about the city council's hearing on the nuclear sub. The editorial said, "There's plenty of room for dissent in this community. There is no room to rebuke the men and women fighting to preserve freedom and democracy."

And I'm wondering, who are they talking about when they talk about "men and women fighting to preserve freedom and democracy?" Are they talking about the ACLU? Are they talking about the NAACP? When you bomb a wedding and then justify it by saying that "bad people have celebrations, too," (in the words of Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt) is that preserving freedom and democracy?

Now I remember at the city council hearing, many of the responses that were supportive of the nuclear sub made frequent reference to freedom and democracy, but very few people cared to define it. And I realized that as much as people value the terms freedom and democracy, very few people know what it means.

In fact the most tangible examples of freedom and democracy that were uttered at City Hall went something like this:

"If it weren't for the military, we'd all be drinking vodka and speaking Russian."

"If it weren't for the military, we'd be eating rice and fish heads and speaking Japanese."

"If it weren't for the military, we wouldn't be speaking English anymore."

In other words, the concepts of freedom and democracy have been reduced to the right to not eat fish heads, or the right to not speak Japanese.

So now I am waging a war against abstractions. Freedom and democracy are not abstract ideas. It's not something you wave around or attach to the side of your SUV.

It's something you practice, and by that I don't mean you practice it at the firing range. You don't practice freedom and democracy with war games at Fort Lewis.

Let's face the facts. The reason I'm able to stand here and speak my mind is not because we bombed Panama. It's not because we bombed Grenada.

I am able to stand here and speak freely because many people before me risked their own personal safety to speak up in the past. Was the United States a democracy when it imprisoned Eugene Debs for speaking out against World War I?

Was the United States a democracy when it destroyed Paul Robeson for speaking out about the conditions of the oppressed?

I owe my freedom of speech to the people who got their heads bashed in during the Peekskill Riots. We owe our

freedoms to people like Joe Hill or Fred Hampton or Medgar Evers. We owe it to the Wobblies who were massacred in Everett and Centralia.

It's true that many women and men have died for this country. But we should remember that a good number of them were killed in this country.

Martin Luther King died for this country. Viola Liuzzo died for this country. Andrew Goodman, James Cheney and Michael Schwerner—killed in Mississippi—they died for this country.

It's sad to say that the women and men who have been sent overseas to enforce an occupation in Iraq—they're dying for George Bush and the neocon dream.

We can't depend on the inherent goodness of this country. The Patriot Act and the INS prove that our constitutional rights can be revoked overnight.

Don't take our rights for granted. The laws of this country will only protect us when we raise a fuss.

Let's not glorify cluster bombs and nuclear submarines as the saviors of democracy. The ACLU does not deploy ground forces.

Who passed the Patriot Act? It wasn't Osama bin Laden, and he's not the one upholding it, either. Who's stripping our freedoms? It's not Mullah Omar, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi or Muqtada al-Sadr. It's a bunch of good old boys with less exotic names like Bush and Ashcroft.

I've said this many times before, and I'll say it again because a lot of people still don't get it. Who did we bomb so that African Americans could have the right to vote (except in Florida)? What country do we have to invade to ensure that women here have reproductive rights?

I want you all to know that we're not here to fight for an abstraction. You can call it freedom or you can call it French fries—I don't care. But our values are human lives and human rights. Real things. Things that we can experience. Things that we miss when they're taken away from us. Human lives and human rights.

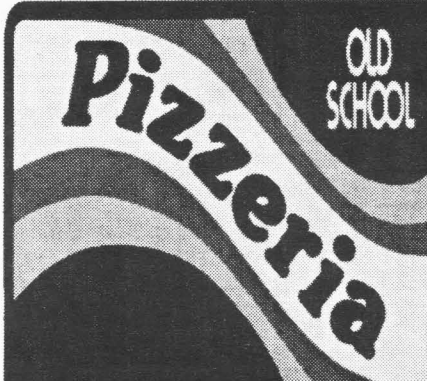
So back to the Olympian editorial. If the editorial board of the Olympian knew what it was talking about, then when it talks about the "men and women fighting to preserve freedom and democracy," it should apply to us. Thank you.

Cartridge Care Inc.

PRINTERS, FAX, COMPUTERS & COPIERS
-QUALITY REPAIR, SALES & SERVICE
-QUICK RESPONSE ON-SITE SERVICE
-TONERS, FILM & INKJETS
-REMANUFACTURED & NEW

360-459-8845

THE PRINTER EXPERTS
1314 LEBANON ST SE LACEY



New York Style
PIZZA BY THE SLICE
OR WHOLE PIZZA PIES!
(360) 786-9640
108 Franklin St
Olympia, Washington

Grassroots Democracy in Olympia:

A public forum on visits by the USS Olympia

Sandy Mayes

Although large community forums on controversial local issues are not exactly a rarity in Olympia, the May 25 open forum at that evening's City Council meeting was unusual not only for its overflow crowd of more than 250 people, but also for the number of people from out of town who came after hearing about the USS Olympia controversy on talk radio. The forum was the result of a proposal made by council member TJ Johnson the previous week after several citizens expressed concerns about a pending, short-notice visit by a nuclear-powered and nuclear war-head-capable attack submarine which shares our city's name.

City Council meeting on May 18: citizens raise concerns

Those who spoke at the May 18 meeting cited a variety of reasons for their opposition to a visit by the submarine, but it mostly came down to two: the safety of our small harbor and principled opposition to what the ship represents as a weapon of mass destruction. Incidents of nuclear leaks and other mishaps, including the frequency (half of the time) with which such "precision guided" weaponry miss their targets, were mentioned. Alice Zillah argued that allowing a visit by the USS Olympia would not be a *neutral* decision, but would in fact bring the war to our town in a celebratory manner. Julia Moore pointed out that there is no practical reason for the sub to visit Olympia except as a PR event for the war and its machinery. Drew Hendricks cited a new post 9-11 Coast Guard regulation requiring a 400 ft. security buffer around nuclear subs traveling at surface level, which would have effectively shut down the port during the entire visit: an issue not relevant during the sub's previous visits to Olympia.

In response to an inquiry from council member Curt Pavola, Mayor Mark Foutch explained that the Navy had contacted the Olympia Police Department requesting assistance in providing security for the sub. The City declined, deferring to the Coast Guard since OPD does not have the necessary training to protect nuclear submarines in Budd Inlet.

Johnson, expressing agreement with the issues raised by the citizens who testified to the Council, referred to the submarine as a "publicly financed killing machine." Foutch disagreed with the objections to the submarine visit, and opined that the USS Olympia is a part of the City's heritage and should always be welcomed.

Council members Curt Pavola and Laura Ware reflected concern that the people of Olympia should have a voice in the matter: some kind of public process, an opportunity to make their views known and to actually count in some meaningful way. Laura Ware, acknowledging that the Navy does not have to ask our permission to dock in our port, said that it seemed as though the City was being manipulated into a PR campaign for the war. Council members Doug Mah, Matthew Green and Jeanette Hawkins all agreed with concept of public input, but Hawkins stated that any conclusions arrived at should pertain only to *future* visits by the sub, not the one which, at the time, was expected to occur in roughly ten days. Johnson disagreed,

arguing that the Council should act quickly to respond to the pending visit.

According to meeting minutes, "Councilmember Johnson moved, seconded by Councilmember Ware, to hold a public hearing ... to consider a resolution opposing the USS Olympia visit and to request the Navy to remove the City's name from the submarine," [italics added]. Ware and Johnson accepted a friendly amendment by Pavola, suggesting that the issue of the submarine's name be addressed at a later time. The resolution passed with Foutch, Mah and Hawkins dissenting. A public hearing was scheduled for May 25.

Prior to that date, the Navy announced that the USS Olympia's visit had been cancelled due to "security concerns."

Alice Zillah argued that allowing a visit by the USS Olympia would not be a neutral decision, but would in fact bring the war to our town in a celebratory manner.

City Council meeting on May 25: public forum regarding the USS Olympia

In light of the cancelled submarine visit, a decision was made to withdraw the proposal to "consider a resolution opposing the USS Olympia visit," but to proceed with the public hearing to discuss the issues related to the resolution. Of the more than 250 people in attendance, over 100 of them signed up to speak.

Although they were the minority, a nevertheless significant number of people came from out-of-town delivering a pro-military/pro-submarine message. Many expressed anger at the City Council members who voted for the public forum. They were accused of being anti-troop and unpatriotic. Some said it was a "slap in the face" to members of the military.

The most personal attacks were aimed at TJ Johnson for proposing the forum. One person from Yelm compared TJ to "Hanoi Jane" Fonda, calling him "Iraq Johnson." Sandra Miller, who ran against

Laura Ware in the last City Council race, said that the actions of the Council were "wrong, arrogant, selfish and unpatriotic." Miller is the general manager of the Ramada Inn Governor House, which had hosted the Navy during earlier port visits, and had similar plans for this visit. She said that council members' opposition to Bush administration policies should be limited to activities as private citizens, not as public officials.

Unable to attend the forum, I did watch it later that week on TCTV. I found the entire proceeding, which went on for about four hours, to be quite riveting: displaying before those of us who dwell within the little bubble we call Olympia, the monumental divide that exists among U.S. citi-

zens on the larger issues of democracy and the so-called war on terror. Yet, it was interesting to note that almost without exception, those who spoke, even those who vented rage at the council members for holding the forum, concluded their statements by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to speak.

The Council members respond

After approximately 50% of local testimony weighed in *against* the USS Olympia coming to our port, Doug Mah offered what he characterized as a "balanced" proposal, reflecting the City's "values and concerns", resolving that: "The Olympia City Council declares its continued support of visits by the USS Olympia; and instructs the City Manager to contact the US Dept. of Energy, and other concerned agencies for the purpose of identifying and clarifying the necessary security, environmental, and public health requirements to allow for the safe and secure

arrival, departure, and stay of the USS Olympia in our community." Hawkins seconded the motion.

Jeanette Hawkins:

My disappointment, and ... why I voted against the resolution last week, was because some members of this council no longer honor any of our process rules. And so, here we are tonight having a discussion that has polarized the community — and that isn't a real *productive* discussion. If we had spent more time, giving us a framework, and really talking about the situation in a more thoughtful way, I think we could have had a much better forum tonight. But, whatever the results of this forum end up being, I'm going to support the resolution that Doug has brought tonight. And I'm going to support it because since we don't have any rules on the council any more and we can just create resolutions on a dime, I think that this one has a lot more thought behind it and is a lot more productive and gives us a chance to get in place the information we need to either welcome or question the arrival of the USS Olympia if it ever wants come to port again.

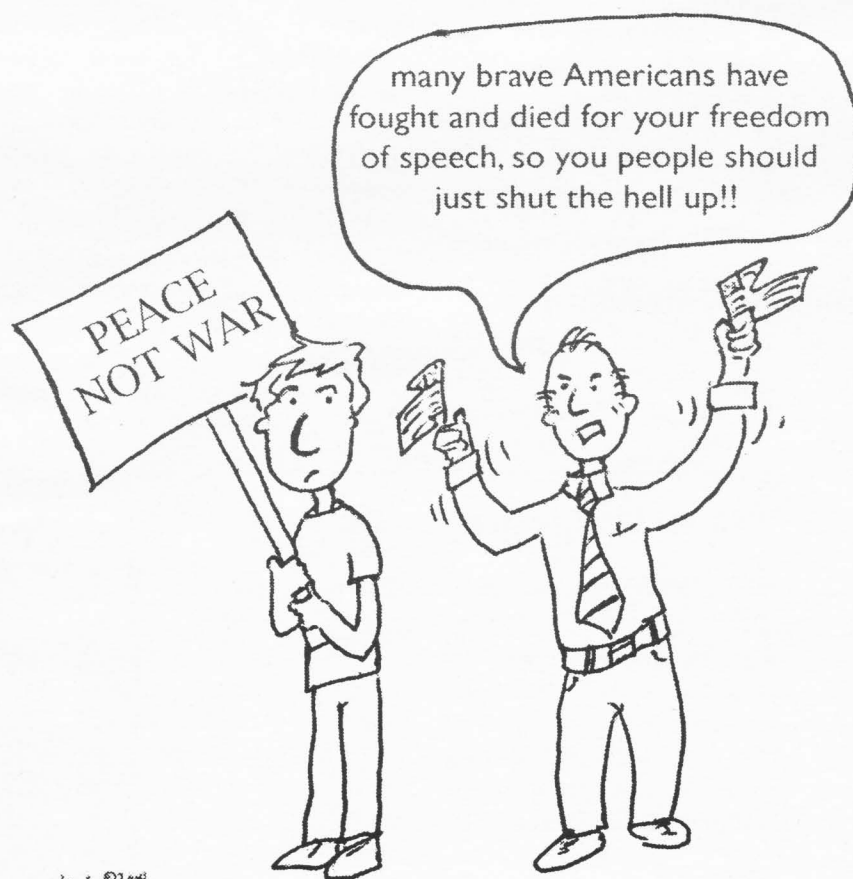
And I will say, one of our many many letters, e-mails today, over the last few days, suggested that rather than changing the name of the ship that we could change the name of our city. So, we've had a lot of different kinds of comments, and they have been from the rude and the four letter to extremely facetious and also some very productive comments. The threats ... go along with the job. And one of the things about bringing up a resolution that brings out this kind of controversy in the community — And, this isn't the first time this council's done this. I can think back in my eleven years on the council and we've had the firearms advisory ballot issue — I mean, you think it's bad having people who have military sympathies threatening you, try the NRA — OK? And we've done fluoridation, and that *really* brings out some strange people.

And, you know, you learn lessons from these things. And one of the lessons we learn about these kinds of processes is how to pose the question, and what kind of process, and under what — what kind of questions are we going to ask and what kind of dialogue are we going to have to preserve our community because when you're a leader in this community, what you want to build is community. You want to build unity. And I don't think that this resolution that has been abandoned tonight accomplished that at all. In fact, I question what it accomplished.

TJ Johnson:

I will speak in opposition and be voting against this resolution. In part, because I agree with Doug that we need to take an action that reflects balance. And this proposed resolution doesn't reflect balance. By my count, of the people from our community, from the Olympia community who were here this evening, it was very evenly divided on their positions ... But this resolution ignores fifty percent of what we heard tonight: legitimate concerns raised by members of *our* community. It doesn't reflect balance. I would also add that I don't believe that this resolution polarized the community; you can't do that with a piece of paper in seven days. We are polarized: as a community, as a state, as a nation, and as a world. This just became the match that struck the tinderbox that was ready to light. And if not this resolution this week, something else another week; that's really the issue.

(continued next page)



John C. G.

I also disagree with Jeanette on, "We've thrown out all process." I think what we've done is that we have allowed ourselves to be responsive to the community that elected us to serve. That's why I ran for this office. I don't know why others did, but that's why I'm here. And when people come to me with concerns about their community and the safety of their community and the future of their community, it's my responsibility as their elected citizen to listen to them and, as appropriate, to create forums, to have a discussion about those issues. And that's exactly what we did last week. We didn't take a position and say, "We're against this submarine." We said, "We want to have a conversation in our community." And that's all we did; we had a conversation this evening. And I want to thank most of the people that spoke tonight for their civility and for their dignity in their remarks because that wasn't what we saw in this ream of paper [holds up stack of emails sent to city council members that week in response to the proposal] that's sitting on our desks necessarily. We saw some of that, but we saw a lot of other things. We saw intolerance, we saw intimidation, we saw hate, we saw racism, we saw scapegoating.

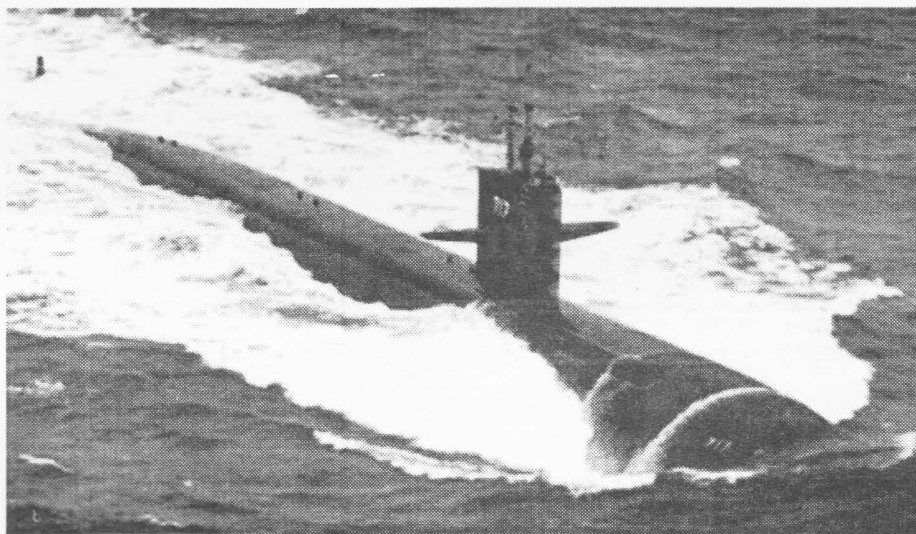
I've been thinking a lot this week about a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt that really sticks with me. She said, "Speak even if your voice shakes." I like that because my voice has been shaking a lot this week, as I've received phone calls in the middle of the night, as my six year old son has been harassed with vulgarities and profanities by someone on the other end of the line. Should a six year old have to put up with that? No, they shouldn't. But that's been what my week's been like. And why has that happened? Because I suggested and joined a majority of this council in deciding to have a community conversation to talk about a relevant issue of our time.

Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." I can think of nothing that matters more than war and peace and safety and our future as a community, our future as a state, our future as a nation, and the world. There's nothing that matters more. And to ignore those issues—that is the day we begin to die. And I'm glad we didn't ignore those issues. I'm glad we had a forum and we got to talk about that this evening.

One of the most disturbing things I've heard in the last week is the accusation that somehow, by *questioning* and wanting to talk with people about ideas and issues, you're not patriotic. And I will, because it's such a good quote, reiterate the quote that Walt Jorgensen made earlier from Edward R. Morrow, who said, "Never confuse dissent with disloyalty." I like that quote, so I wanted to use it again.

This isn't about patriotism. What is patriotism? Is it waving a flag and turning our backs while people come home in body bags that we don't get to see 'cause they won't let us watch? Is that patriotism? It's not my brand of patriotism. Patriotism, to me, is working in an elementary school, teaching kids. It's helping your neighbor fix their fence. It's coming to a city council meeting and speaking your mind on relevant issues: a wide variety of things. And I'll be *damned* if any person is going to challenge my patriotism. And I'm talking specifically to you, Sandra Miller. You don't come in here and talk that way to people that sacrifice and work hard on behalf of this community, as every one of these seven people do, regardless of whether we agree on this issue or not.

This is also *not* about "supporting our



troops"; that is the other red herring in all of this. This is not about that. I personally have respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every individual, whether they're wearing an American uniform, an Iraqi uniform, or civilian clothing, whether they're a child, a woman, or a man—the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

The troops are welcome in our community; anybody is welcome in our community. All we ask you to do is follow the creed of the Old West: Check your guns at the door. The submarine is not welcome; the people are welcome. Park your sub-

You cannot, I cannot, dissociate my individual personal beliefs from my role as a council member. 'Cause my individual personal beliefs are based on my sense of morality and humanity. So, there are some things that guide me in my decision-making. One is, I oppose this war, absolutely; it's wrong. And I oppose the glorification of violence in any form, and the glorification of military violence particularly. I oppose weapons of mass destruction. There is no reason to have a nuclear weapon anywhere on this planet—ever. I oppose an energy policy that requires us to use military force to ensure that we don't have to make the sacrifices:

When people come to me with concerns about their community and the safety of their community and the future of their community, it's my responsibility as their elected citizen to listen to them and, as appropriate, to create forums, to have a discussion about those issues.

— Councilmember TJ Johnson

marine elsewhere in a community that wants it. We'll charter a bus, we'll pick you up, we'll throw a barbecue. Just don't bring your submarine into our harbor.

There are legitimate safety concerns, and I was appalled to sit here tonight and hear about the "fifty year record of no nuclear submarine in the American fleet ever having a problem," because I hold in my hand an article from ... Wednesday, April 12, 2000. Headline: "At least two

to give up our SUVs, to drive cars that get better miles a gallon, or occasionally get out of our cars and walk or ride a bicycle. I oppose an economy that's built on military profits, and I oppose the fact that forty cents out of every dollar in our government budget is now being spent on military or military debt service. That's higher than it was at the peak of the Nazi regime in 1939 prior to the invasion of Poland. I support regime change: starting with the

Jeanette Hawkins, on the other hand, characterized TJ's initial proposal to hold a public forum as a "reckless action."

workers were exposed to radio activity. One shipyard worker was injured during an accident on the nuclear-attack submarine USS Olympia this morning at Pearl Harbor with an accidental release of radiation." Four years ago—the very same submarine. Yet, I hear people say we're a bunch of Chicken Littles worrying about that. Sorry—it's happened. It can happen again. It happened there, it can happen here.

We know this vessel carries Tomahawk cruise missiles. We know Tomahawk cruise missiles are nuclear capable; and even [when] they aren't nuclear capable, in containing warheads, they contain depleted uranium. We know that for a fact. Will the Navy assure us that they aren't containing depleted uranium or nuclear warheads before they pull into our port? They won't; they have a policy to not tell you. Which is probably a good policy as long as we're going to have these weapons.

Bush administration as soon as possible and trickling down to everybody, Democrat or Republican, that supports violence. And I support free speech and what we saw here tonight. And while I disagree with a lot of what I heard here tonight, I would defend to my death, people's rights to say it.

I can't separate, I can't turn that part of my brain off and say, "Well, now I'm a city council person." Can't do it. And if the community wants to have people that can do that, then I'm not the right person to be here. And that's your choice as members of this community. If you choose to replace me, that's your choice. But I know from my perspective, I want people that operate with a sense of morality and humanity in public office. I don't always agree with them, but God, I'm scared at the prospect that we have people, or might have people in office that forget those things.

Other comments:

Curt Pavola: We need to clarify, even though it may not be heard by about half of the audience that we heard tonight, that we're not making statements about the men and women in service. Everybody is welcome in Olympia.

Laura Ware: I can't at this moment support the continued visits of the USS Olympia ... [Last week] I was doing what I thought was the conscientious thing to do for this community ... We said ... "Let's have the public forum"—and we're crucified for it. ... This is democracy; this is our constitution ... and we're throwing it away. Some have used the word "fascist" tonight and that's what terrifies me; we're turning into that regime that we're supposed to be replacing over there.

Matthew Green: I'm very glad that we had this tonight. I believe that considering an idea and having a public discussion is never something to be ashamed of. ... Supporting our troops does not mean questioning the patriotism of someone else who has a different view of the world.

Doug Mah's resolution, inviting the sub to Olympia, was tabled for future discussion.

The City's final resolution

On June 8, TJ Johnson offered a new resolution through which the Council would take no official position on visits by the USS Olympia, one way or the other. Stating that he remains personally opposed to such visits, he reasoned that it would be wrong for the Council to take a stand when the community is clearly divided on the issue. The resolution states that the Council takes no position on USS Olympia visits, and directs the City to draft a letter to the captain and crew of the ship expressing support for those who serve in the military, summarizing the events surrounding the controversy, and providing them with a video tape of the May 25 meeting and public testimony.

The resolution passed 4-3, with Foutch, Hawkins and Mah dissenting. All three expressed continued support for a visit by the sub. "If I could, I would invite the USS Olympia to port with a unanimous proclamation from this council, but my personal invitation is all I can give," Hawkins said.

Considering that, in years past, the de facto City policy has been to welcome the submarine, this conscious decision by the Council *not* to welcome the ship is a strong statement in and of itself. It came as a result of an engaged citizenry speaking its mind and the actions of at least four council members who were willing to listen and respond.

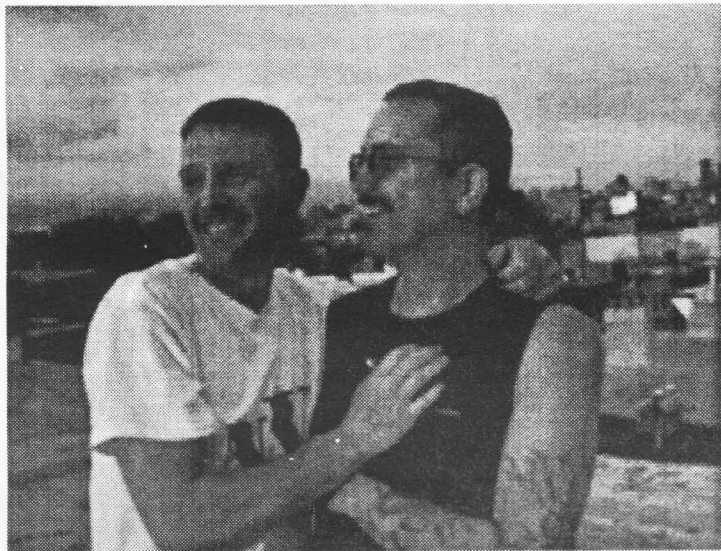
Jeanette Hawkins, on the other hand, characterized TJ's initial proposal to hold a public forum as a "reckless action." "They [the council majority] were warned of its rashness, but thought it more important to be responsive to a vocal minority whom they agreed with than to be responsible to this city, our state's capital and our nation."

Thank goodness for rare and courageous public office holders like TJ Johnson who understand that "being responsible" to the citizenry means giving them a voice and responding to their concerns.

[Jeanette Hawkins announced on June 11 her resignation from the City Council. She has accepted a position with Edward Jones as an investment representative and leaves office on July 5.]

The Face of Marriage Equality: Newly-weds talk about what it means to them

By Anna Schlecht



After 10.5 years together, Mark Christensen and Keith Lampard took the drive to Portland on the ninth of March this year and got married.

They came for love, they came for political reasons, and they came in large numbers. In early Spring of this year, nearly 4,000 same-sex marriage certificates were issued by San Francisco city officials, working seven days a week to accommodate the huge numbers of couples, until shut down by the California Supreme Court. In the month of March of this year, Multnomah County of Oregon followed suit and issued nearly 3,000 same-gender marriage certificates before being ordered to stop. Smaller communities such as New Paltz, New York also entered the fray, with Mayor Jason West issuing 25 same-gender marriage certificates until he was stopped with a 19-count criminal complaint. The state of Massachusetts is currently issuing marriage certificates.

Thousands of same-gender couples from across the country found their way to those jurisdictions to be married. These are just a few of their stories:

Teresa and Tina

(Teresa) We originally went to Portland to get married for both political and personal reasons. But once we got there and found the minister (following the paper-work at the County Court House)

before our wedding date a judge ordered the weddings be stopped. On August 16th, 2002 we had gone back to Vermont for a civil union. Our civil union ceremony was small but it meant a great deal in terms of our families. My mother, who has since passed away, was able to be there. It was the ceremony that was important as opposed to the legal rights because frankly there really aren't many conveyed by a civil union. Although I am a native Vermonter, since we don't live there our civil union means nothing legally here in Washington.

It was love and joy that made us want to get married in Portland, but it was also a political statement about very important civil rights. We felt it was important to go down there to be counted. Having a civil union was nice, but legal marriage is what conveys the legal rights and benefits that we deserve too.

Marijke & Danae

(Marijke) For me it was about being a part of what I saw as a whole movement of very brave people standing up for what they believe is right. It was heart-warming and inspiring to see those mayors of small towns do what they felt was right. I got married to my partner so that

I really do want the civil rights that are associated with legal marriage. I look at my mother who's alone since my father died five years ago. One of her major sources of income is his social security. If I were to die, I'd want to know that my partner will survive without me financially. I've worked all of my life and have paid into social security. So I should be able to designate that my partner should receive that.

Steve & John

(Steve) We flew in from Houston to get married. I never thought I would live long enough to see this in my lifetime. It's sad that we couldn't really bring our friends 'coz it was such a long way to come. It's even sadder that our families wouldn't have supported us. But what matters is that we were able to do this. I feel so lucky to be alive for this. Some day it'll be no big deal, it's just two people who love each other. But it still is now.

which disproportionately afflicts gbtq men of color; it does not stop hate crimes and violence against gbtq folks. But it is a significant step forward. It's another chance to engage your friends and neighbors on issues of basic, equal rights.

Phillip & Steve

(Phillip) After being together for over 23 years, it was great to finally have an opportunity to get legally married, although we are still waiting to see if this will truly become a "Legal" marriage. It will help to solidify our relationship and to verify it for our relatives. It's often not a big issue until one partner dies and the family moves in to say that you were only roommates while they make claims on any thing of value they can get - your family home, your savings account - every thing you worked together to build. When I asked my partner to marry me, he said he wanted to wait until it was legal in Washington. Then he went to a



Sarah Vanucci and Anna Schlecht with their wedding party. Sarah and Anna were married on Friday, March 19th in Portland Oregon. They were joined by a small group of their friends and chosen family. The couple makes their home in Olympia, Washington. They anticipate holding a larger celebration later this summer featuring lots of great music, heart-felt toasting and kosher Italian food.

And I'm so proud we were part of changing it.

Sarah & Anna

(Sarah) It was one of those amazing times of synchronicity. When we got to the County Courthouse in Portland, I saw old friends who drove all the way up from Arizona where I used to live. It was the two women I started a women's bookstore with in 1977, and who introduced me to feminism. Then I saw two other women who played a role in my moving to Olympia 13 years ago. And then I saw Margarethe Cammermeyer and her partner. Anna and I met working on a fundraiser featuring Col. Cammermeyer. So it felt like this constellation of significant people who each played a role in my meeting Anna came together at the precise moment when I was going to marry her. It all felt like such an affirmation from the universe. Beyond that, it was amazing to realize how many people came from all over the country to have a chance to get married; some of them drove thousands of miles!

(Anna) We say marriage equality, our opponents say "sex, sex, sex!" Opponents think "Gay Marriage" is just about gay sex. Newsflash, most people who pursue marriage equality are far more concerned about financial security to allow them to pay the bills, to raise their kids, provide for their elderly parents. They're concerned about getting into emergency rooms when their partners have heart attacks. They want to know that the social security they have paid into for years will go to their surviving partner if they should die, NOT the federal government! Especially for those who oppose the war in Iraq, the idea of our social security going right into Bush's war chest is enough to make you roll over in your grave! That said, not everyone in the gbtq community is wild about this issue. Marriage Equality does not change the face of HIV/AIDS,

meeting on Marriage Equality which clarified all of the rights and benefits that we don't have. Then he came home and asked, "So what are you doing on Friday? Do you want to go to Portland to get married?" This is purely a matter of equal rights, not religious "rites." The churches can discriminate against us all they want (within their churches) but they can't push their beliefs onto the rest of us. It would have been great to do this 23 years ago, but we couldn't.

Summary

These are not the only stories, or even representative of the diverse number of same gender couples who recently married. However, they do personalize the reasons why this issue has ignited the gbtq communities across the country. As with the old saying on the left, the personal is political and all politics are personal; the national campaign to amend the US Constitution is occurring at the Congressional level, but the people whose lives this would affect live right next door.

NEXT MONTH: Opponents of Marriage Equality; the arguments against civil rights

"I feel so lucky to be alive for this. Some day it'll be no big deal, it's just two people who love each other." Steve

and prepared to say those vows, we found that the expression of our love and commitment was purely personal. Since marriage is not equal in Washington State, we weren't able to celebrate this life affirming event with our family and friends. So we will host a commitment ceremony this coming July.

It was illegal for my grandparents to get married. My White Irish grandmother and my Chinese grandfather had to go to Idaho to get married. My grandmother's parents disowned her for marrying an Asian immigrant. Things come full circle; now my partner and I had to go to Oregon to get married. But I'm sure that some day in the future, just as it was for my grandparents, my marriage will be recognized by all.

Naki & Abby

(Naki) We were planning to go to Portland to get married, but two days

I will be able to tell my children and my grandchildren that we were a part of history in the making.

We already felt married. Three years ago we had a wedding under the care of our Friends Meeting, in front of hundreds of our friends and family. We feel fortunate to live in a community in which we can celebrate our relationship publicly. I'm very aware that's not true all over the country. So joining this movement of thousands of people getting married sends out a message that there is hope, there is community out there, we do exist. There are so many people who feel so isolated, scared and alone being gay in hostile areas. This sends a message of hope and community.

(Danae) We are lucky to have a religious community that is supportive of us. That's the reason we were able to get married three years ago (before getting legally married in Portland.)

Anti-queer bigotry is back in fashion: Rightwing fundamentalists rally the flock against same-sex marriage

Su Docekal

Scapegoating queers in times of crisis is a tactic older than the Third Reich. A case in point is George Bush's campaign to ban same-sex marriage with a constitutional amendment. If Bush succeeds, the U.S. Constitution would turn an entire group of people into second-class citizens for the first time since the U.S. Civil War.

For some political gay-bashers, the recharged attack on queers is just a cynical election-year tactic. But for others, it's a serious ideological offensive aimed at recruiting hearts and minds to a much more sweeping far-right agenda.

The holy crusaders.

The amendment currently before Congress reads: "Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution or the constitution of any State, nor state or federal law, shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups."

The Alliance for Marriage, which is made up of relatively mainstream church leaders, initially backed this wording. But they are now considering language to permit civil unions in order to curry more congressional votes for the amendment's passage.

However, the leading ideologues of the Arlington Group, a cabal of over 20 top Christian-right organizations, want language that explicitly bans Vermont-style civil unions and eliminates domestic partnership benefits. After the U.S. Supreme Court struck down anti-gay sodomy laws in June 2003, the Arlington Group formed the next month to plot the campaign to deny queers their civil rights through a constitutional amendment.

This Who's Who of the far right includes James Dobson of Focus on the Family, Gary Bauer of American Values, Nixon-administration jailbird Chuck Colson of Prison Fellowship Ministries, Sandy Rios of Concerned Women for America, and Bill Bennett of Empower America.

White House strategist Karl Rove is working hard to unite all these ultraconservative strands behind George Bush's reelection effort. Meanwhile, they press on with a long, wide-ranging list of reactionary initiatives.

One of the most chilling is "The Conscientious Objector Policy Act," which

passed the Michigan House of Representatives in April 2004. Backed by the Catholic Church, the law assails women's reproductive freedom and the rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgendered people. It would allow doctors, pharmacists, and insurance companies to deny treatment to non-emergency patients on so-called moral or religious grounds and to discriminate specifically against queers.

Preaching theocracy.

Same-sex marriage bans, "fetal rights" legislation, and faith-based social service programs are all part of a crusade to create a "Christian nation" — imagine Salem, Massachusetts in 1692. After James Dobson of Focus on the Family appeared at the recent "May Day for Marriage" extravaganza in Seattle, he wrote to his followers, and warned: "Barring a miracle, the family as it has been known for more than five millennia will crumble, presaging the fall of Western civilization itself." An enclosed flyer urged readers to educate themselves with books such as *True Freedom* by Oliver North, *Be Intolerant*, and *Why You Can't Stay Silent: A Biblical Mandate to Shape Our Culture*.

Perhaps someone will mail Dobson an encyclopedia that explains that neither the "Father Knows Best" model of the family nor Western civilization existed five thousand years ago! One also hopes he'd flip to the section on the U.S. Constitution, which unequivocally mandates separation of church and state.

Quiet as it's kept, secular tradition in the United States also applies to wedlock, which has always been defined as a civil contract. Whether couples choose to celebrate their unions in a church, synagogue, or mosque or on a beach is strictly a personal affair with no bearing on their legal status.

The bigoted history of marriage.

U.S. history is replete with examples where defense of god, Western civilization, and white womanhood were trotted out to justify using marriage laws to uphold white, heterosexual, and male privilege.

The 1865 Mississippi Black Code prohibited interracial marriages, punishable by life in prison. In 1930, federal immigration officers in California ruled that white women who married Filipino men would lose their citizenship.

Not until 1967 did the U.S. Supreme Court finally strike down all laws against interracial marriage in the *Loving v. Virginia* case, which concerned a Black woman and white man who had married in Washington, D.C. but were thrown into jail when they returned home to Virginia.

Three decades later, President Clinton turned back the clock in 1996 when he signed the Defense of Marriage Act, which both restricts federal marriage benefits to male-female couples and allows states to deny recognition to gay marriages performed in other jurisdictions.

Despite the demoralization caused by this slap in the face from the president who won election as a "friend of the gay community," queers in the U.S. regained hope with the 2003 Supreme Court decision against sodomy laws. And shortly afterward, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the state's "civil union" laws for same-sex couples were separate but not equal, and mandated the legislature



Tina Roose and Teresa Guajardo at their post-marriage lunch celebration. Tina and Teresa were married in Portland, Oregon on March 8, 2004. In attendance were Tina's brother, Paul, who flew from Oakland, CA to attend the event and two friends from Salem, OR, Kris Heath and Harry Chandler. The couple are planning a reception and honeymoon in July.

to change them.

Hope and solidarity.

When Bush launched his counteroffensive, knowing that the Democrats would try to avoid confronting the issue, he underestimated the fury of the gay community, whose expectations and hopes had been raised by these legal victories.

An outpouring of queer activism has generated thoughtful discussion in schools, workplaces, and churches — and taken some wind out of the rightwing sails. It remains to be seen if the far-right campaign regains steam and can succeed in diverting attention away from Bush's catastrophe in Iraq, the specter of a military draft, and the jobless "economic recovery."

Unfortunately, some divide-and-conquer tactics still work. Various Black evangelical ministers are rallying their flocks behind the family values campaign, while gay "Log Cabin" Republicans have en-



Robin Vaughn and Stacy Waterworth got married in Multnomah County, Oregon on March 11, 2004. They had a commitment ceremony at Priest Point Park on July 19, 2003. They have been together for over four years.

dorsed racist anti-affirmative action initiatives and Homeland Security police-state tactics.

But such people are not the majority within their communities. Many African American political leaders, from Al Sharpton to Julian Bond of the NAACP, have spoken out to support equal marriage rights for gays, and queer activists are represented well in demonstrations to defend Arabs and Muslims from Patriot Act abuses.

The culture wars are far from over, but there's reason for optimism that the "pro-family," pro-war, and racist crusades are at last galvanizing an equal and opposite reaction.

This article originally appeared in the *Freedom Socialist Newspaper*. Su Docekal, whose column "Lesbian and Gay Marriage: for Better or for Worse" in the last FSN is available at www.socialism.com, can be reached at SuDocekal@earthlink.net.

Community News

OLY NOW!

On Saturday, June 20th, a wonderful community event occurred. Thanks to the collaboration of many groups including Garfield School Peace Scouts, Mariah Art and the NW Neighborhood Association the corner of Garfield and Plymouth Streets came to life. The Portland City Repair Project provided inspiration for this place-making event.

During the afternoon celebration a beautiful wooden bench (on the corner of Garfield School) was dedicated, made by Brien Bennett, an artist in the neighborhood. This larger than life structure was placed in a spot where people can now stop for a moment, have a conversation while having a tremendous view of Mt. Rainier. Across the street, a bench made out of cob; straw, sand and clay is being created by Joseph Becker that will provide resting place for others to sit as well. In between these two structures a beautiful mandala was created on the street by people of all ages with vibrant pastel paints, orchestrated by Bradley Naragon.

For folks who were thirsty, smoothies were made by pedaling a bike constructed by Elijah Stepp with a variety of fruits donated by the Olympia Food Coop. A new program called Farm Bank which is geared to provide organic foods to persons on a low income budget offered up free bags of delicious greens. People learned about the group, Build a Bike, while others perused a new Living Peace Resource Library, ate homemade Italian pizza cooked in a brick oven on site, had their face or arms painted, created clay structures on a potter's wheel plus more. A local musical group, L'Aquafois and soloist, Sarah P., provided background music. Snacks were also provided by Blue Heron Bakery.

All in all this afternoon gave neighbors, children from Garfield School and folks from the broader community a chance to have fun, meet new and old friends while helping to celebrate and renew a sense of community.

For more information on this event, contact Kathleen Byrd, 754-2889 or at kathb@u.washington.edu

Thanks, Mary Coacher



Naki and Abby Naki holding their civil union certificate.

PATRIOT ACT WATCH

Republicans Touting Patriot Act in Olympia Rebuffed! Patriot Act II is back!

By Howard Rosenfeld

I must begin this month by reminding readers that if you want the latest summaries of Patriot Act news, resistance and suggestions for actions, go the Bill of Rights Defense Committee (BORDC) website and sign up for their email alerts. You can do that here: <http://www.bordc.org/subscribe.html>

The BORDC is reporting 334 civil liberty safe zones as of June 25th. Significant zones to report since last month include Raleigh (North Carolina), Moscow (Idaho) and Savannah (Georgia).

Last month an event organized in Olympia by Bush/Cheney 2004 Campaign supporters to tout the Patriot Act was held at the Best Western Aladdin on Capitol Way. The panel included King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng, former U.S. attorney Michael McKay, and former N.Y.C. police commissioner Bernard Kerik.

A spirited group of protesters threw together an impromptu demonstration, accompanied by people opposed to the PA wanting to sit in on the event and other activists posing as the news media to ask challenging questions of the panel gathered. A mini-documentary was also produced for the event by the New Spark Media and Arts Collective which you can watch online here: <http://www.newsparkproductions.org/watchnewsreels.html>. The video ends with one of the panelists being pursued by a New Spark Collective member asking questions about the law and hurriedly dashing to their car so they can get away.

Olympian Thad Curtz attended the event with a sign that read "No lawyers, no hearings, no warrants is not patriotic." After arguing with hotel security and event organizers about whether or not he could be at the event, he was told the event was not open to the public and threatened with arrest unless he left. Curtz only wanted to stand in the back of the room with his sign and listen to the panel speak and not ask any questions, which he made clear a number of times. ACLU-produced brochures critical about the Patriot Act were left on seats early, only to be collected by event organizers before it started.

Turning to national PA news, sections of "Patriot Act II" have been revived in a new bill introduced called Anti-Terrorism Intelligence Tools Improvement Act of 2003, or HR 3179. Wired reports . . .

"[The bill] was introduced last September by Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wisconsin) and was co-sponsored by Rep. Porter Goss (R-Florida), chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and a possible contender to replace departing CIA chief George Tenet.

It contains four sections that first appeared in a proposed piece of legislation dubbed Patriot Act II. That proposed law was discovered last year by the Center for Public Integrity just weeks before the invasion of Iraq. Patriot Act II, or "Son of Patriot" as critics called it, was written by the Justice Department to expand Patriot Act powers, but the department was forced to shelve the proposal after news of it created an uproar.

Rather than abandoning the [Patriot Act II] legislation altogether, the department has been extracting provisions and having sympathetic lawmakers slip them one by one into new bills to pass the legislation piecemeal.

But critics, like conservative former Rep. Bob Barr (R-Georgia), say that rather than abandoning the legislation altogether, the department has been extracting provisions and having sympathetic lawmakers slip them one by one into new bills to pass the legislation piecemeal. At least five other bills pending in Congress also contain provisions from Patriot Act II, but HR 3179 is the one that's in imminent danger of being passed under the radar.

Last year, a Patriot Act II provision was slipped into the Intelligence Authorization Act of 2004 at the last minute and passed quickly before legislators opposed to it had time to fully examine it. The Intelligence Authorization Act, an annual bill that allocates funds for intelligence agencies, is a must-pass bill that generally gets drafted and passed quickly in secrecy.

The new bill, HR 3179, was set to pass through Congress without a hearing last year, but the House Judiciary Committee, chaired by Sensenbrenner, changed its mind and held a hearing May 18. The bill is waiting for markup in that committee, but critics fear that Rep. Goss and the House Intelligence Committee will slip the bill into this year's Intelligence Authorization Act during a closed-door hearing on June 16, and pass it quickly before lawmakers can revise or further debate it." (<http://www.wired.com/news/privacy/0,1848,63800,00.html>)

Artists are becoming the target of an investigation in Buffalo, NY. From the Critical Arts Ensemble Defense Fund website (www.caedefensefund.org):

"On May 30, members of the performance art collective Critical Art Ensemble were subpoenaed by the FBI. The FBI is planning to indict Steve Kurtz, a member of CAE before a grand jury on June 15, on unknown charges. CAE is under investigation for their use of scientific equipment to produce art projects that question the relationship between commerce, politics and biotechnology. The Critical Art Ensemble has been producing performances and theory that merge political realities with technology and theater since 1987. Thus far eight subpoenas have been issued . . ."

On June 18th, the Seattle PI reported that the associate curator at the UW Henry Art Gallery, Robin Held, was visited and interviewed by two FBI agents. They were inquiring about Held's recent exhibit, "Gene(sis)" which included work from the CAE.

On June 15th, Democracy Now featured a segment on spying in America raised for a few reasons: one reason was because in February, Army intelligence officers visited the University of Texas law school days after a student-organized conference on Islamic Law and

Women's Rights. The agents questioned participants and demanded a non-existent roster of attendees. The other reason was because of a provision buried in an intelligence appropriations bill that is moving through Congress that would exempt Pentagon agencies from the Privacy Act, vastly expanding their ability to conduct domestic spy operations. The Army later apologized for acting outside its jurisdiction, but under the new intelligence provision, such investigations may become more common.

Patriot Action: Police Target Free Speech

By Pat Tassoni

On Monday, June 14th, the criminal charge against me was dismissed. The citation of "Refusal to Cooperate with an Officer" was made by Washington State Patrol Trooper Woods (Badge #789), just blocks away from the Patriot Act protest on June 3rd. Let's review my case's evolution in light of the Patriot's Act broadening of Orwellian police powers and the lack of constitutional guarantees.

Step One: Identify a Target

On that day I left the on-going protest to go to work about five blocks away. On my way to work, I was handing out informational flyers about the Patriot Act and placing them on parked cars. Trooper Woods stopped me near Sylvester Park, after apparently following me, because, as he said, "it is illegal to distribute information on the State Capital Grounds." I think the legislators and the governor would be as surprised as I was to find that their jobs of making laws were as illegal as my right as a citizen to engage in free speech. Maybe that's why nothing ever gets done at the Capitol? If information and free thought are illegal, then I am guilty of the "crime" of being a true citizen and patriot.

Step Two: Invent a Crime

Of course, as an experienced citizen full of civic pride, I knew Woods' assertion was false. At most he could cite me for a civil infraction if his department training or personal ability left him unable to differentiate between free speech and commercial speech. It is illegal to distribute commercial material: wouldn't the lobbyists at the Capitol be interested to know that? Woods refused a copy of the flyer from me and the surrounding cars for review. He had apparently made

Conference organizer Sahar Azia had this to say on Democracy Now!: "Well, it was actually quite an unexpected event after the fact. The conference was very successful. It was very well attended by Muslims and Non-Muslims, by students and non-students and, you know, we ended the conference feeling very proud of ourselves and having complete add successful one and were congratulated by numerous people. And then a week later suddenly special agent from the Army Intelligence shows up out of nowhere and roamed the campus looking for this nonexistent roster and a video tape of the conference and in order to get that he was asking for me because everyone kept telling him well, she was the one that organized the conference. The process made many people intimidated and just shocked. I was very shocked because there was nothing at the conference that would have made one even believe that something like this would happen. So, it was definitely a major chill on free speech and on academic freedom. I was very concerned that if something like this happens in the future, at another conference, will anyone show up because people will be scared that they're spied on and won't feel comfortable to speak freely about issues that are very important because we're very heavily involved and we need to understand the culture and the religion and, you know, the people, etc., of the region."

The real crime here is that this patriot apparently knew the Trooper's authority better than he did, but remains captive to his ignorance and malfeasance.

up his mind, not based on the evidence at hand, to censor certain information from public consideration. If free speech is a crime, then I am guilty of 'selling' it as any true citizen or patriot gladly would.

Step Three: Get the Criminal

Woods demanded my ID and simultaneously refused to hear my name. After repeating to him numerous times that I was cooperating with him fully, I pointed out that I was not required to carry ID since I was not operating a motor vehicle. He then handcuffed me and set me down on the grass after searching my person. I did not consent to that search or the search of my belongings. After 15 minutes of sitting handcuffed in the middle of the neighborhood that I have lived and worked in for the past 15 years, Trooper Woods finally received my name and issued me a criminal citation with an arraignment scheduled in it. I think it is interesting that he did not charge me with the 'civil crime' he initially was 'investigating', but rather decided to escalate his harassment of this citizen to such a level. The real crime here is that this patriot apparently knew the Trooper's authority

(continues on page 12)

Boycott the Corporations that Bankroll Bush!!

By Robin Morisette

Like most of us, I've watched the spread of U.S. aggression in the Middle East with disapproval, outrage, and more recently, pure horror. Along with the global abomination of our foreign policy, the Bush administration is also delivering to us at home the wreck of our economy, attacks on our natural resources, social service and education programs, and the mangling of our constitutional freedoms. There are many of us working in different ways to protect our nation and the world against the assault, and many more who feel powerless and paralyzed. Lately I feel that we need to do something different — *more than the usual letters to lawmakers and editors, or marches and demonstrations, or signing petitions and*

products they sell in the US and UK. BoycottBush.net is a UK organization created in response to the Bush administration's non-cooperation with the Kyoto treaty on global warming, but we can put their information to use for broader purposes. They also include a sample letter to use to let these companies know that they are being boycotted. If we could compose our own letters and send them with not one or two, but hundreds or thousands of pledges to withhold our dollars from these companies, and possibly even demonstrate at some high-profile establishments (like Wal-Mart, or Exxon), wouldn't that be a powerful message to send?

A boycott is something that almost any-

Boycotts were critical to the success of the civil rights movement—we should be using this powerful tool!

the like. I'm envisioning a massive, well-organized boycott of all the corporations that are bankrolling the decline and dishonor of our country.

Recently, after a very short internet search I discovered <http://www.boycottbush.net/>, which lists, among other things, the top 25 donors to Bush and the Republican Party (each one to the tune of millions of dollars over the last 4 years), AND all the brand-name

one can take part in, even those who have limited time and resources. It's something we can all get behind, whether we're Kucinich, Nader, Kerry or "None of The Above" supporters. It is very direct action—in a sense, communicating with these conscience-impaired corporations in the only language they understand: money. If we could actually affect their bottom lines, they would have to pay attention. There are alternatives to most of the products these companies sell, and we could build a lot of solidarity between groups (such as peace, labor, environment, GLBTQ, education, etc.) by coming together to find ways to get our needs met and avoid financing the thieves and warmongers. Boycotts were critical to the success of the civil rights movement—we should be using this powerful tool!

I can and will do this myself, and encourage all my friends and family too, but the boycott has to be done on a massive scale to really be effective. It's been suggested that we target the top 12 — a "dirty dozen" — and be very organized, public, long-term and vocal about boycotting them. I am planning to approach a few large national organizations like Move On, True Majority or America's Future and ask if they could get something like this off the ground on a nationwide scale. But for now, I thought I would bounce the idea off folks around the Northwest and see how many people would like to join in.

I've spoken to many people from different organizations about this strategy, and everyone thinks it's a good idea. Now it's time to make it a reality. People are needed to help with visioning, contacting people and organizations, designing, producing and distributing educational materials, and more.

If this might be you, you're invited to come to a meeting on Monday, July 26th, 2004 (place TBA).

Interested parties can contact me at robin@zhonka.net, or call 705-1585.

Many hands make light work! Let's stop giving money to the warmongers now!!

Courage

By Todd Denny



In 1947, Jackie Robinson became the first African American major league baseball player. And it didn't happen easily. As a matter of fact there were 16 major league teams back then and their owners voted 15 to 1 against letting Blacks play in the majors. The lone dissenting team was the 1947 Brooklyn Dodgers, the team that Jackie would play for. Branch Rickey, the owner of the Dodgers, somehow convinced the other owners that the world wouldn't come to an end if Robinson played.

That first year was anything but a cake walk for Jackie as he was consistently ridiculed, belittled and verbally harassed at baseball stadiums all around our great nation. He received no encouragement from any players on the other teams. About halfway through that first season something happened that turned the history of major league baseball around. Imagine this, during the middle of a particularly hostile game, as Jackie was being mercilessly taunted by the crowd of about 30,000 fans, the shortstop on his team, a white guy from Kentucky by the name of Pee Wee Reese, walked across the infield during the middle of the game and put his arm around Jackie. The crowd was stunned, the hostile voices grew silent, everyone was wondering what was going on.

Well that moment said it all. They were in it together, Black, White, friends, team mates and Brooklyn Dodgers. That proved to be a turning point in the acceptance of Jackie not only by the fans, but also by opposing teams and some of his teammates. I think if you are looking for some examples of courage you have at least three in that story. First you have an owner who went against the tide of rival owners. Second, you have Pee Wee

Reese, a white guy from Kentucky taking a stand for what was right regardless of how unpopular it was during that era. And thirdly Jackie Robinson took the risks and abuse that came with breaking the color barrier in major league baseball.

The story of Pee Wee Reese and Jackie Robinson is an inspiring one. How do you define courage? For some guys it means being a mentor, peer educator or even a big brother. Let's turn now to a modern day version of baseball courage.

For Mark McGuire, the record-setting home run hitter, it meant donating a million dollars to set up a child abuse treatment program in St Louis. His dona-

Sadly, some guys confuse being courageous with being aggressive, assertive, dominant, sometimes even abusive to women

tion was one of the largest of its type made by an athlete in pro sports. He put kids' needs ahead of his personal comfort — not an easy thing to do.

But sadly, some guys confuse being courageous with being aggressive, assertive, dominant, sometimes even abusive to women. But you know what? I think anyone can do that. I think that's called male sex role stereotyping. For too long men have confused manliness with their acts of dominating and abusing women. Real courage is having the guts to confront, challenge and speak out against men's abuse against women. Whether it is sexual harassment or sexual assault, I think it's up to us guys to take the lead.

If you are confused, are you ready to change? It takes courage to stand up against male sex role stereotypes in our culture. Abusing women takes no courage. So tell me, how do you define courage? Are men willing to stand up and take the risk and abuse that might come with being no longer tolerating male violence against women? The rewards will be incalculable — but it will take courage.



**VICS
PIZZERIA**

360.943.8044
233 Division St NW

A K&Q's Patron Business

786-6027

JAMIE LEE & CO.

309 E. 4th
Olympia, WA
98501

Full Service Salon
Botanical Haircare
Products

Hair
Manicures Tarot
Waxing Pedicures
Astrology Massage
Eye Lash & Brow
Tinting
Palmistry

Free Consultation - Free Bang Trims

Mixx
96fm
KXXO

**"Soft Rock
for the
Great Northwest"**
Rockway-Leland Bldg. • Downtown Olympia

(from previous page: Patriot Action...)

better than he did, but remains captive to his ignorance and malfeasance.

Step Three: Prosecute the Criminal

At my arraignment, I argued for myself as the county prosecutor read the basis of the charge to the judge. I pointed out that I was being charged under a section of the law related to operating a motor vehicle and that I was a pedestrian engaged in free speech. The judge dismissed the charge, but allowed the prosecutor the opportunity to make a new charge against me. The judge then scheduled another arraignment for me on July 13th for a charge that has not yet been made. I'm wondering if I will get a chance to plead or if I could be detained until a crime is found/invented? I'm hoping to have the opportunity to help the prosecutor do his job honorably and re-identify the criminal as the one who originally issued the citation.

Now more than ever in these Patriot Act times, citizens and patriots need to be more vigilant in exercising their rights and demand more professional and accountable police training and procedures. Since Trooper Woods is unable to differentiate between free speech and commercial speech and cannot even differentiate between the rights of a pedestrian and those of an operator of a motor vehicle, I would caution anyone who has contact with him. Next time I will calmly ask to have his supervisor come and oversee his job performance to ensure a degree of professionalism that I have not seen in him and have no confidence in his ability to deliver on his own. I also have grave patriotic concerns about the justice system's ability to correct itself through a ranking supervisor, the prosecutor's office, or even the judge as I await my trial for being a true citizen.

Letter from Plowshares nun, Jackie Hudson

Submitted by Holy Gwinn Graham

Here is the latest letter for all from Dominican Sister Jackie Hudson, O.P., doing time in Victorville Prison, California, for her symbolic action at the nuclear missile silo in Greeley, Colorado in October of 2002. At this time, there are no letters available from Sisters Carol Gilbert or Ardeth Platte, but more will come. Jackie's address is Jacqueline Hudson, O.P. #08808-039, FPC Victorville, P.O. Box 5100, Victorville, CA 92301. (Here e-mail address: jackie@gzcenter.org.) She would love to hear from you.

Fifth Epistle from Victorville

May 2004

My apologies for being so tardy in writing but I am now a "working woman." I began reporting to the library for afternoon duty in March. It cuts into my day terribly!!

Warm/hot days and cool evenings have begun. We celebrate springtime and new life. Easter preceded by Holy Week brought days of wonderful ritual. I thank those of you who carried me on your Good Friday Via Crucis. You all were in my heart as I walked the compound that day.

My prayers were at many spots where Jesus is daily crucified on these premises...the warehousing of bodies in the various housing units, the criminal lack of medical care both in and outside the clinic, the dehumanizing "power over" by those in administration, lack of nutritional food in the cafeteria, etc, etc.

Other Good Fridays of life - the death of Bishop Ken Utner, friends and family

It is encouraging that the mainstream media has picked up the atrocities being perpetuated in our name. Now it is up to us to demand change

dealing with cancer, new arrivals at prisons around the globe... but always after Good Friday comes Resurrection! I celebrate the new life of Amos Philip Berrigan (born to Molly and Jerry Mechtenberg Berrigan), the release of Mordici Vannunu, Mother's Day actions at the Bangor, Washington Trident Submarine Base and the Elf site in Wisconsin.

I am grateful for other actions around the nation and the world calling for the end of the occupation of Iraq, just solutions in Palestine and Afghanistan as well as other "hot spots" around the world, women heading home after months and years of incarceration, wonderful weekend visits, the return of the hummingbirds....

Here is an update on Frieda, 80 years old, and incarcerated here. She has been assigned to AM Food Service by the camp administrator, not by the person in charge of work assignments. When the women converged on him for an explanation he said he had "nothing to do with it", picked up his briefcase, and headed out. So goes life in the gulag.

Speaking of gulag, a friend received an article on the Russian gulags of the 50's and 60's. It showed an aerial view of the complex. It looked remarkably similar to the isolated desert setting of Victorville. In Russia, as here, prisoners did all the manual labor and worked for the government. So many similarities and yet we hear little condemnation of the US version. Instead we hear of the "coddling" of prisoners from folks who have never experienced the system. The latest figures show that 701 of every 100,000 US citizens are currently in prisons.

The news is filled with the inhumane treatment of Iraqi prisoners. Truly an atrocity. Folks in this country refuse to acknowledge that this is commonplace in our own jails and prisons. Prisoners are considered "property of the US Government" - literally! Disrespect, dehumanization, humiliation are all part of the prison process. The horrible brutalization suffered by our "war on terrorism" prisoners is not commonplace here at Victorville.

This is a minimum-security facility. There are no bars or barbed wire to keep us here. Rather, it is the 3-5 years sentence for trying to escape that keeps us in place. After a visit, we are routinely stripped, searched, forced to squat and cough, open our mouths, wag our tongues, showing nostrils and ears, bowing heads while running our fingers thru our hair. It is supposed to be random but is used for punishment also.

So many of our military police and "contractors" rotate from or back into the US prison/jail environment, so why should we be surprised? This seems to be acceptable behavior within each system. Prisoners, wherever they are, are property, not

human beings, all the more so if they are "different".

...And we continue to ask, "Why do they hate us so?" When will we wake up?!"

It is encouraging that the mainstream media has picked up the atrocities being perpetuated in our name. Now it is up to us to demand change.

Our case has now reached the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver, CO. Our dedicated attorneys have narrowed the appeal to three issues:

1. The trial court's definition of "national defense" and "national defense materials" was unconstitutionally broad and vague.
2. The record is devoid of evidence establishing the requisite specific intent to commit the crime of sabotage (which, in fact, the judge and the prosecutor both repeatedly said we were not charged with!!)
3. A "good faith" defense should have been part of the jury instructions.

No date has yet been set for a hearing and I expect the decision will not affect us personally but anticipate that it will provide material for similar actions in the future.

Blessings and many thanks to Anabel, Susan, Scott, Walter and Cliff for all your labors on our behalf.

In reply to your offers of support, financial help for mailings, telephone and basic needs can be sent to Sue Ablao, 3495 Dyes Inlet Rd. NW, Bremerton, WA 98312. Sue sees that my monthly needs are covered. Occasionally a piece of stationery, blank card or stamp slips in unnoticed but they are not allowed.

Our letters are now being posted on the web: www.jonahhouse.org and www.gzcenter.org. Another great site with information on weapons in space is www.space4peace.org.

Some items of interest:

1. Excluding civilian and military retirement, veterans' benefits, medical care and environmental clean up cost, the US Federal debt is now approximately \$7 TRILLION. That's \$24,000 annually for every man woman and child in the US! (David Walker, Comptroller General of the US April 4, 2004)
2. The US military is present in 120 of the 191 recognized countries in the world. (Testimony given before the Armed Services Committee, May 4, 2004)
3. Estimated 1998 spending on all US weapons and weapons-related programs was \$35 BILLION, 1 Million. (US Weapons Cost Study Project)
4. Vaccinations for 10 Million children world wide would be \$310 Million. This equals the cost of 6 Trident II Missiles. (Ground Zero Center for Non-violent Action)

I am extremely grateful to each of you for your continued love, support and prayers. The inner peace I continue to experience is miraculous, truly a gift. These experiences have brought me to a deeper realization of living in the moment. The past is gone, the future is yet to come. We have only this moment and this moment makes life possible. In carrying the Burden of Knowledge, may we each find ourselves doing our best to provide a world that all can live in as one people, relishing the new life each moment affords.

My love to all,

Jackie

PATRIOTISM IS THE LAST REFUGE OF THE SCROUNDEL!

Samuel Johnson



The Olympia Food Co-op

The Co-op has all of your gardening needs, including seeds, organic vegetable and herb starts, organic soil, earth-friendly pest repellants, and more.

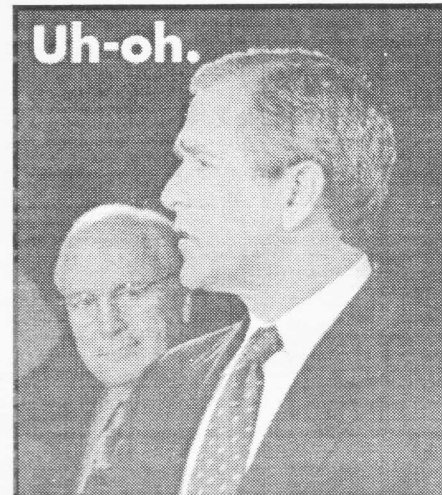


Westside Co-op
921 N. Rogers St.
754-7666
Open 9-8 daily

Eastside Co-op
3111 Pacific Ave SE
956-3870
Open 9-9 daily

Member-Owned and Collectively Managed through Consensus Decision Making

Announcements



August 1/Sunday Jim Hightower & Citizens Band

Telling it like it is

Music, musings, and book signing of "Stop Beating Around the Bush." 7:00pm at the Capitol Theater. Advance tickets \$10 at Rainy Day, Traditions, or Orca or \$12 at the door. Fundraiser for Washington PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility) Call 360-528-2110 for info.

WROC: Know Your Rights

These workshops will be geared toward young parents and service providers. Learn welfare rules and how to be your own best advocate. All are welcome.

Thursday, July 15th, 6 – 8 pm
Arbor Manor, 1322 Skyridge Street SE in Lacey, childcare and meal provided.

Tuesday, August 10th, 1 – 3 pm
Community Youth Services, 711 State Avenue NE. Childcare available.

WROC Night Out

Monday, July 5th, Potluck at 5:30
First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE
As hardworking activists we need to laugh and be inspired. Join us to watch Michael Moore's film, The Big One, and discuss our upcoming direct action. On-site childcare provided.

Volunteer Meetings

every Wednesday at 1:30 at the WROC Office: 701 Franklin in the Payne Room of the First Christian Church

At 2:30 we hold a writing workshop to create submissions for our resource guide, Involuntary Simplicity. Children are welcome.

Questions? Call WROC at 360-352-9716 in Olympia. Toll-free message phone at 1-877-330-3063. Email WROC at wrocoly@wroc.org.

How Our Children Learn Racism

Manning Marable

Why is racism accepted and unchallenged by the majority of white Americans? Perhaps because whites, beginning at a very early age, are thoroughly socialized to uncritically accept racial inequality. The "diversity" we say we want has little to do with the racial exclusivity we have constructed in our own lives. This process starts even before reaching elementary school.

American educators generally believe that children are mostly unaware of racial categories or racism, until they are taught to think and act consciously in ways that reproduce race. Part of the reason for this is the continuing influence

have been found to prefer stimuli depicting other whites.

The 1997 article by L. Hirschfeld, "The Conceptual Politics of Race: Lessons From Our Children," published in the journal *Ethos* documented that most three-year olds and virtually all four-year olds could match photographs of children of various racial identities with pictures of their birth parents, when presented with photos of parents of divergent racial groups. In other words, children have the ability to "naturalize" race, and to connect a person's identity with a particular racial categorization.

Other studies have found that by age five, children can attribute an individual's ability according to the racial grouping in which they are supposed to belong.



thing that people, including children, repeatedly and constantly encounter, and frequently find pressing against them. For the most part, whites and blacks still live in essentially parallel racial universes. The majority of white Americans remain in deep denial about this. The impact of racism on the lives of most people of color, however, is continuous and quite real. Whites and blacks as groups generally have widely different views about political matters. Our children notice all of this.

Children soon learn that being "different" can be a good or bad thing, depending on how it is classified into the hierarchy that society has established. They compile observations linked with skin color, family background, language, noticing whether the phenotype or physical appearance of another child is similar to that child's adult guardians or parents, and observing the type of clothing people wear. All of these experiences and observations accumulate into categories, which are given validation by parents, teachers, and people in authority.

To change this process of race-making in the minds of young children will require bold, new approaches to early childhood education. We must teach our children that a new world is possible to achieve. Let us imagine that new world through how we teach our children. Let us live that change we want to achieve.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of Public Affairs, Political Science and History, and the Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University in New York. "Along the Color Line" is distributed free of charge to over 350 publications throughout the U.S. and internationally. Dr. Marable's column is also available on the Internet at www.manningmarable.net.

What is most revealing is that white children on the whole tend to insist that an individual's lack of ability or ability is race-specific, even in the face of evidence that disproves or contradicts their assertions.

of cognitive developmental theory beginning with Piaget. Most researches still think that children who use racist language do so out of naiveté or ignorance. From this perspective, the young child is essentially or primarily egocentric, lacking the intellectual unity or social awareness to construct, much less act on, complex social constructs such as racism.

Consequently, most social psychological studies and research projects studying racial attitudes among young people focus primarily on high school aged students. Relatively few research studies have made observations about children under the age of twelve and in their actual day-to-day relationships with each other as they relate to race relations.

I believe, however, that a child-centered approach, observing the actual behavior of children in environments, which they control, and by viewing children as independent actors, rather than being acted on by adults, can give us a very different insight into how children learn racism. In 1987, psychologist P.G. Ramsey found that children as young as three can have negative biases toward others of different racial groups, even if they have never personally met a person of another group. Several studies have documented that white children as young as three and four

What is most revealing is that white children on the whole tend to insist that an individual's lack of ability or ability is race-specific, even in the face of evidence that disproves or contradicts their assertions.

Another way for educators to think about how children help to reproduce race is to recall the findings of Kenneth and Mamie Clark in the 1940s, whose research found that racial segregation reproduced negative self concepts among black children as early as the age of three. The Clarks' sociological research was pivotal in persuading the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954 to overturn sixty years of what was termed "separate but equal" education in the United States. If the African-American child, as scholars have long documented, has the ability to recognize and understand what discrimination is, to realize that his or her place in society is unequal and inferior, then it is not unreasonable to assume that young whites also have the same ability.

"Whiteness," that is, the state of being white, is reproduced and lived in daily life, in both conscious and unconscious ways. Certain benefits or privileges exist and are created and enjoyed simply by being white. That recognition or desire to become white, that is, to be "privileged," can be observed and understood even by children.

The racial system in America is some-

Free School Has New Space

The Community Free School has a new space! We have rented the grey house at 808 Jefferson St. next to the Post Office. It's a great place and an amazing opportunity for us to grow as an organization. It also gives us the ability to offer more than classes and workshops to the community. Now, we can offer community groups like yours a place to meet. We have a room set aside with lots of space, plenty of chairs and parking in the back. We also have cabinet space where partner organizations can store anything from their cups and plates to meeting notes and office supplies. There's even a peaceful yard out back for the occasional meeting under the sun.

We are asking for \$15 -75 a month (sliding scale based on your annual budget) for up to 4 meetings per month. This money will go directly towards our operating costs. By deciding

to become a community partner you'll gain a great meeting space and you'll be sustaining your community skill share.

Contact Beth at 280-1708 if you have any questions or are interested in renting a place to meet. Give us a call and we'll set up a time for you to come and see the space. Thanks for your continued support! We look forward to sharing this community space with you.

Olympia Community Free School
info@olympiafreeschool.org
www.olympiafreeschool.org
1-877-296-4981

P.O. Box 603 Olympia, WA 98507

(from page 1: *A Duty to Disobey...*)

the issue was not just individual or collective acts of atrocities or brutal actions but the starting of an aggressive war itself. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert L. Jackson, head of the US mission stated,

"We must make clear to the Germans that the wrong for which their fallen leaders are on trial is not that they lost the war, but that they started it. And we must not allow ourselves to be drawn into a trial of the causes of the war, for our position is that no grievances or policies will justify resort to aggressive war. It is utterly renounced and condemned as an instrument of policy."

It is important to note that none of the authors cited have any support for Saddam Hussein or the Government of Iraq whatsoever. They and others who do not support an illegal war in Iraq believe that government of Saddam Hussein is (was) corrupt, vile, and contemptible. So is the leadership and governments of many of our "allies," such as Saudi Arabia and Pakistan—governments that the United States may very well attack within the next decade. It is important to remember that Saddam Hussein was an important "ally" during the 1980s and that many of the weapons that may be faced by our armed forces will bear a "Made in the USA" label. The issue here is not the "evil" of Saddam Hussein, nor the international community doing nothing, but an illegal march to war by the Bush administration....

Even former House Majority Leader Dick Armey, a very conservative Republican from Texas, has warned that an "unprovoked attack against Iraq would violate international law and undermine world support for President Bush's goal of ousting Saddam Hussein." (Chicago Tribune, August 9, 2002.)

In addition to the violations of international laws, which have been incorporated into U.S. law, the impending attack on Iraq is a direct violation of national law as Bush claims that he has the authority to decide whether the U.S. will go to war or not. The U.S. Constitution is very explicit on this point. Only the Congress has the authority to declare war, Article I, section 8, Par. 11. Congress does not have the right to give that power away, or to delegate that power to the president or anyone else....

Moral codes and laws

The United States is a secular country with a great variety of religions, which are adhered to by the majority of the people. Political leaders who claim to speak in the name of God are rightfully looked upon with suspicion, whether they are foreign leaders or the president of the United States. This is especially true when the issues are those of war and peace.... However, virtually every major religion in the United States has come out against the Bush plans for war...The Bush plans do not meet any criteria for the concept of "just war." One would expect this from the religions that are respected and pacifist, but it also true from those who have supported past U.S. wars, and even have Chaplains in the service. A sample of U.S. religious groups who question the morality of the war are Catholic, Episcopalian, Jewish, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, and Ecumenical groups. For a fuller elaboration of the comments from these religions and others such as by the Mennonites, Friends, Unitarian Universalist, and other groups see www.ecapc.org....

Reasons for the war and possible actions

The reasons for war are not supposed to be the purview of soldiers in the field.

They are just supposed to follow orders. But when a war is so blatantly illegal, soldiers need to have some background to make an informed decision about how to conduct themselves...It was not about the dangers of Saddam Hussein. As indicated above, there are no credible anti-war or peace advocates that advocate any positive statements about Saddam Hussein or the Government of Iraq. The world, however, in general, does not believe that the Bush administration has any solution to the situation. In fact many believe that Bush, himself, is a significant part of the problem.

Many people have pointed out that this war is about the oil. It is, but it is much more than that. The United States does not need the oil to survive but the people in the Bush administration want to expand the hegemony that the United States government has had since the collapse of the Soviet Union. This is not a critique of U.S. foreign policy, per se, but a recognition of reality. This is essentially what Bush has been saying in his public speeches at West Point, etc., and is very explicitly saying in his "National Security Strategy (NSS), available at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nssall.html>, which he published in September of 2002.

The NSS is the political articulation of what the main actors of the Bush administration published in September 2000, before the elections, before they took power, and before the fateful day of September 11, 2001. That project was called "Rebuilding America's Defenses: Strategy, Forces and Resources for a New Century", A Report of The Project For the New American Century, available at: <http://www.newamericancentury.org/publicationsreports>. These documents are essentially the blueprints for hegemony and for a word that has come back into vogue—

Empire. These documents are publicly available, but not often read. All Americans and all members of the armed forces should read them....

There are also many U.S. veteran groups that have seen the horrors of war up close and do not want to have another generation of young Americans suffer not only the war, but also the post traumatic stresses that emerge after war, when they discover they have been lied to, have participated in aggression, and then are abandoned by their government after the wars. This war is particularly amenable to such, since there is so much dissention, based on solid information that this war is not only unnecessary but also illegal, and may be without a foreseeable end.

Charles Sheehan Miles is a Gulf War veteran and former President of the National Gulf War Resource Center (<http://www.ngwrc.org>). He also helped to found the extraordinarily useful "Veterans for Common Sense" (<http://www.veteransforcommonsense.org/>) which has a great deal of information about the current situation....

The idea that those who oppose the Bush plans for war are against the troops is a fundamental lie. Support for the troops is not done by sending them off to a war which is fundamentally unnecessary—support is keeping them home. Support for the troops is not done by lying to them about the purpose and goals of the war and allowing those who will benefit and profit a free ride on the backs of the troops. Support for the troops is not done by making them complicit in an illegal and immoral war—it is done by exposing the lies and giving the troops an opportunity not to be complicit in war crimes....

A group of veterans of many different wars and eras (including combat veterans from WWII to Vietnam to the first gulf war) has issued a statement that has been distributed to active duty soldiers making some of the points made here. The statement "Call to Conscience from Veterans to Active Duty Troops and Reservist" reads in part: "...If you choose to participate in the invasion of Iraq you will be part of an occupying army. Do you know what it is like to look into the eyes of a people that hate you to your core? You should think about what your "mission" really is. You are being sent to invade and occupy a people who, like you and me, are only trying to live their lives and raise their kids. They pose no threat to the United States even though they have a brutal dictator as their leader."... "When orders come to ship out, your response will profoundly impact the lives of millions of people in the Middle East and here at home. Your response will help set the course of our future. You will have choices all along the way. Your commanders want you to obey. We urge you to think. We urge you to make your choices based on your conscience. If you choose to resist, we will support you and stand with you because we have come to understand that our REAL duty is to the people of the world and to our common future."....

(To see the full statement and view all the signatures see www.calltoconscience.net.)

The choices that those in the military and their supporters face are hard ones. Let us begin with some undisputed options. Members of the armed forces are sworn to protect the Constitution from all enemies, foreign and domestic. They are also sworn to obey all LAWFUL orders and have an affirmative duty to DIS-OBEY all UNLAWFUL orders....

The unelected president will not tell his troops or his commanders that he is issuing unlawful orders. Few, if any, of the top commanders will tell their troops that they are issuing unlawful orders. Those on the front lines, those who fly the planes, those who target Cruise missiles and other weapons of mass destruction need to make decisions. According to International Law, Domestic Law, the Constitution, and various Moral Codes it is not enough to say or believe that one is just "doing their job" or just "following orders." Decisions have to be made.

One should check out the sources of information presented in this article, to see if International Law still applies to America, to see if the Constitution still applies...One should investigate if they are being lied to by their unelected "commander in chief." Members of the armed forces have a sworn and sacred duty to uphold the law and the Constitution. According to the laws, international, domestic, and moral, the interpretation of whether orders are legal are not only the responsibility of "superior officers," but is needed at each level of command, and by those who execute those commands.

Please note that the information presented here is not meant to encourage one to break the law, but rather to follow international, domestic, and moral laws. The information here is not intended to encourage one to break one's oath, but rather to be true to one's duty and conscience and make an informed decision.

If the decision is made that the orders to begin or continue the war are illegal, then each bomb dropped will be a war crime, each bomb loaded will be a war crime, each support effort will be aiding and abetting a crime. Each death, especially that of a civilian, will be a war crime (not

collateral damage). If the war itself is a crime than all efforts that aid in that effort are criminal...The decision to OBEY one's oath and NOT follow illegal orders is no doubt a difficult one, and one that will probably result in punishment from those who issue the illegal orders. One should not take this issue lightly, just as one should not take the decision to follow an illegal order lightly. There will no doubt be consequences for those who follow their conscience. It is the duty of all who recognize the illegality of the war to support all resisters....

I am aware that many active duty personnel and reservist already have grave doubts and reservations about the conduct of this war, just as do significant numbers of veterans and the general public and citizenry. Those who have severe doubts about the legality of what they are "ordered" to do should talk to their comrades in arms, their spiritual advisor (if they have one), and should contact one of the groups listed below and weigh their options.

There may well be some safety in numbers. Albert Einstein, the genius physicist, once stated that if 2% of the military refused to fight or participate, the wars could not continue. Time is short. Or if you are reading this after the hostilities have commenced, it is time to stop the madness and war crimes.

Below is contact information for organizations that have historically assisted active duty personnel, reservist, or veterans of conscience who desire specific legal, political, or moral guidance in time of war. If possible, these would be good organizations to contact. As the veterans "Call to Conscience" statement notes "if you have questions or doubts about your role in the military (for any reason) or in this war, help is available. Contact one of the organizations listed below. They can discuss your situation and concerns, give you information on your legal rights, and help you sort out your possible choices." These organizations are listed for your information and are not responsible for the contents of this article.

Also listed below are sources of information that may be useful about the current situation, in addition to the sources listed in the article.

Suggested resources:

Books on foreign policy listed in the original article at <http://www.counterpunch.org/mosqueda02272003.html>

Useful web sites:

www.commondreams.org;
www.alternet.org; www.fair.org
www.globalexchange.org; www.znet.org,
Middle East Analysis, www.merip.org;
<http://www.foreignpolicy-infocus.org/index.html>

Organizations that have helped GIs in the past (17 Groups are listed in the original article- this is only a sample of those that are available to those in the Pacific Northwest):

Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO), The GI Rights Hotline, (800) 394-9544, (215) 563-4620 Fax (510) 465-2459, 630 Twentieth Street #302, Oakland, CA 94612, girights@objector.org

<http://girights.objector.org/whoware.html>

American Friends Service Committee-National, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102, Phone: (215) 241-7000

Fax: (215) 241-7275, afscinfo@afsc.org, www.afsc.org

Center on Conscience & War (NISBCO), 1830 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20009, (202) 483-2220

Fax: (202) 483-1246, Email: nisbco@nisbco.org, <http://www.nisbco.org/>

Military Law Task Force of the National

Lawyers Guild, 1168 Union Street, Suite 200,
San Diego, CA 92101

619-233-1701, <http://www.nlg.org/>

Seattle Draft and Military Counseling, PO
Box 20604, Seattle, WA 98102, (206) 789-
2751, sdmcc@scn.org

Veterans Call to Conscience, 4742 42nd
Ave. SW #142, Seattle, WA 98116-4553,
CallToConscience@yahoo.com

<http://www.oz.net/~vvawai/CtC/>

Veterans for Common
Sense, www.veteransforcommonsense.org

National Contacts,
<http://www.veteransforcommonsense.org/contacts.asp>

Citizen Soldier, 267 Fifth
Ave., Suite 901, New
York, NY 10016, (212)
679-2250

Fax (212) 679-2252,
www.citizen-soldier.org/

Catholic Peace Fellowship, P.O. Box 41,
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-004

5 7 4 - 6 3 1 - 7 6 6 6 ,
info@catholicpeacefellowship.org; <http://www.catholicpeacefellowship.org/>

Also see the Army Times and Navy Times
of May 24, 2004, "Do the Right Thing: What
to do if your issued an unlawful order."

Lawrence Mosqueda, Ph.D., may be
reached at The Evergreen State College,
mosqueda@evergreen.edu

Chris Stegman

(360) 705-3528

OLYMPIA PAINTING EXCHANGE
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR

OLYMPPEO09QA

FREE ESTIMATES



A government by the Corporation and for the Corporation

By Peter Tassoni

Corporations are a pervasive presence in our lives – the engines of consumer culture. Early in the history of our country, corporations were created to accomplish tasks beyond the means of individual people. While this made sense, somewhere along the way, many corporations transformed from serving our needs to dominating the fabric of our society. Like the Church, the Monarchy and the Communist Party in other times, "the Corporation" has assumed the scepter. Just how did this happen?

150 years ago, states granted people the privilege – not the right – to form corporations to serve the public interest. These artificial entities were created for a limited time and for a specific project (like building a bridge). When the project was completed, the corporation was dissolved, leaving its investors a little wealthier and the public with a beneficial outcome.

Many states passed laws prohibiting corporations from participating in politics, amassing large amounts of capital, and owning other corporations. If a corporation violated these laws or the public trust, its charter was revoked. These restrictions no longer exist. Transformation of "the Corporation" was cemented by two Supreme Court legal doctrines.

The first is "corporate personhood." The Court dissolved the distinction between flesh-and-blood people and corporations (corporations were originally formed to serve the needs of people. This gave corporations rights accorded to "people" by the Constitution and, more troublesome, the Bill of Rights. In creating the legal fiction called "corporate personhood", the Court inconceivably failed to limit 'civil rights' to natural born people.

The second and equally vexing, is the Supreme Court created doctrine that "money constitutes a form of protected free speech" under the First Amendment. Giving this right to corporations allows them to use wealth to "speak freely" to our government – at a volume that drowns out the voices of common citizens.

Under these laws, natural born people find it impossible to persuade their government to require that business activities be done in a way that does not destroy our environment, exploit the working class, or decimate other cultures and societies. Now, a movement to abolish corporate "civil rights" is being hailed as the next civil rights movement – to return democracy to the people. On June 5, the Washington Democrats adopted a platform with a plank to reverse the legal doctrine giving corporations constitutionally-based rights. Other States have now done likewise.

THE CORPORATION (www.thecorporation.tv) is coming to Olympia! This award-winning film underscores the belief that allowing "corporate persons" to control our government is not only anti-democratic, but extremely dangerous. The film exposes "the corporation's" inner workings, curious history, controversial impacts and possible future. Based on Joel Bakan's book *The Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power*, the film invites CEOs, whistleblowers, brokers, gurus, spies, players, pawns and pundits (including Noam Chomsky, Michael Moore, and Howard Zinn) on an engaging quest. Employing a clinical checklist devised by the World Health Organization, the "corporate person" is meticulously diagnosed as having a psychopathic disorder. If good corporate citizens are psychopaths, do we want them as a dominant force in our government? This must-see film will have a limited engagement at the Olympia Film Society's Capital Theater from July 17-22. Don't miss it!

As a follow-up to "The Corporation", Jacqui Brown Miller, local attorney and activist, will explain how corporations use the courtroom to successfully assert their civil rights and thwart the enforcement of our democratically enacted laws. This presentation, "If Corporations are People and Money is Speech, is Democracy a Myth?" will be given on Friday July 23rd from 7-9pm at the Olympia Community Center, 222 Columbia St NW, Room B. Also, learn more about abolishing corporate personhood at www.wilpf.org, www.reclaimdemocracy.org and www.poclad.org.

Deliver a Letter to the DSHS and Governor Locke

By WROC

August 22nd is the 8-year anniversary of welfare reform. Members of WROC, the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition, have a history of noting this date with creative direct actions designed to educate our communities about the realities of poverty and push for better policies. Remember the tent city in Sylvester Park? Panhandling for solutions? Mother Care Fair? Our wedding of the "welfare mom to any man?"

This year it is time to ask for some accountability from DSHS. Through a freedom of information request and calls and emails from parents around the state, we have learned of some of the mean spirited tactics DSHS workers have used to lower the TANF caseload. In Forks, caseworkers got to ring a bell every time they pushed another family off TANF. In Olympia, they required monthly eligibility reviews. In many areas, case workers sent SLAM letters, mostly to students, accusing them of living above their means and threatening them with welfare fraud investigation. Many parents were then investigated, which meant investigators went to their work places, knocked on their neighbors' doors, and questioned their children when they weren't home.

We discovered that caseworkers were invited to summer slam beach parties and the ones with the most terminations were taken out to lunch. We are appalled

at this behavior and so, we suspect, are many DSHS employees. But we also know they are under tremendous pressure to look at the families they serve only as numbers.

Join us on Monday, August 23rd to deliver SLAM letters to DSHS policy makers and Governor Locke. We suspect them of living above the taxpayer's means. They have created short-sighted welfare laws that increase poverty, rather than fight it; an expensive program that takes away choices from parents, paying more to force children into daycare than allowing mothers to nurture and bond with their own infants, that forces parents into poverty wage jobs and prevents them from accessing the training that Governor Locke claims is so important for job preparation. Governor Locke has transferred over \$300 million from welfare funds to the general fund, reducing job support programs at a time when unemployment was at an all time high.

We demand that our government be accountable to families living in poverty, stop implementing policies that encourage bad behavior among caseworkers and allow single mothers access to education so that they can have an opportunity to compete for living wage jobs. If you have a story to tell or want to help plan our event, call WROC at 352-9716 or email wrocoly@wroc.org.

Kickoff Event for Instant Runoff Voting: Initiative 318

Rob Ritchie, the executive director of Center for Voting and Democracy, will speak in Olympia on Saturday the 10th of July. The event will run from 1pm to 5pm at Heritage Park in downtown Olympia, at the corner of Water and 5th.

Rob's speech will mark the public kickoff of the campaign to gather signatures for I-318, a petition to the Legislature for using Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) in Washington State (WA).

The event sponsor, IRVWA, has committed to organizing 5000 signature gatherers to collect 40 signatures each between July and December. The campaign also asking for \$20 from each of its supporters and that they advocate for the initiative in a letter to the editor campaign for IRV.I-318.

Instant runoff voting, or IRV, is a system of ranked-choice election where the need for a primary election is eliminated, which could save Washington State \$13 million per election cycle. IRVWA is promoting IRV as an initiative to the Legislature, which gives them until December 31, 2004 to gather 200,000 valid signatures.

For more information: Sign in at the website www.irvwa.org or call the toll free number 1-866-IRVWAORG (1-866-478-9267) and leave your name, phone #, email and the county you are from.

Background:

Voters in an IRV election rank each candidate in the order of their preference. The winner of more than 50% of the first choice votes wins just as in current elections. But if there is no first choice winner, the voters who selected the least popular candidate have not wasted their

votes – those ballots are counted for second ranked choices; the race is recalculated, and the winner is not selected until they get at least 50% of the vote. The election can go for several rounds this way without the added cost and low turnout inherent in a second – or runoff – election. To see how this works visit the www.irvwa.org website and view the flash demonstration of IRV.

This is the being termed the "best method" of voting because it prevents spoiled ballots, allows voters to vote for their policies rather than against personalities, and encourages turnout. It also preserves our cross-party choices, while protecting our political right to association with those of our choice. Parties can select their official candidates themselves outside of the publicly financed election, under the law proposed by IRVWA.

Organizations in the United States already use IRV to select the Heisman Trophy winner in College Football, the Academy Awards winners, and Republican Party officers (in Utah). The ballot is simple – you've already used a similar form if you have ever taken a preference poll.

LAST WORD BOOKS

Buy, Sell, Trade

Counter-Culture Books,

Zine's, and News

119 5th ave. SE (360) 357-5255

Oly, WA 98501

lastwordbooks@yahoo.com



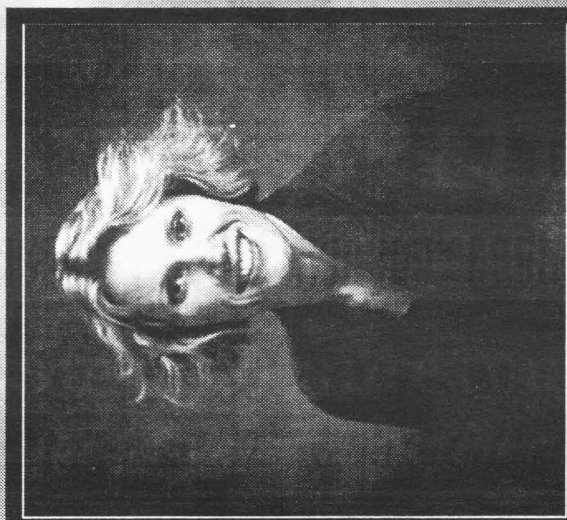
WORKS IN PROGRESS

Grassroots Democracy

In Olympia



Some like it



Others, not so much

C O N T E N T

- 1 The Governors are Coming!** - *By Steve Hughes*
A Duty to Disobey all Unlawful Orders - *By Lawrence Mosqueda*
- 2 WIP Update: Long Hair David is charged**
- 4 Attacking Native Sovereignty: Michael David Crise Arrested for Harvesting Geoducks** - *By David Lavender*
Opinion: Missed Opportunities - *By Drew Hendricks*
- 5 They Ain't Goin' Nowhere (Unless We Make It So)** - *By Ron Jacobs*
Preserving Freedom and Democracy? - *Speech by Phan Nguyen*
- 6 The Face of Marriage Equality: Newlyweds talk about what it means to them** - *By Anna Schelct*
- 7 Boycott the Corporations that Bankroll Bush!!** - *By Robin Morissette*
Courage - *By Todd Denny*
- 8 Patriot Act Watch: Republicans Touting Patriot Act in Olympia Rebuffed!** - *By Howard Rosenfeld*
Police Target Free Speech - *By Pat Tassoni*
- 9 Letter from Plowshare nun Jackie Hudson** - *Submitted by Holly Gwinn Graham*
- 11 Deliver a slam letter to DSHS and Governor Locke-** *Submitted by WROC*
A Government by the Corporation and for the Corporation- *By Peter Tassoni*
Instant Runoff Voting Initiative (I-318)



Jim Rutz, Jim Reich,
Jim Zühner

WORKS IN PROGRESS
PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507